

MOVIES: 'Life Itself' offers an unreliable experience **Page 25**

GAMES: Lara Croft brings familiar thrills **Page 26**

MUSIC: Differing takes on Underwood's latest **Page 36**

EUROPE
& PACIFIC
WEEKEND
EDITION



NFL
League's new coaches
off to rough starts
through Week 2
Back page

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TYLER NIGRASWEI/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, take a break on Aug. 3 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Okinawa. They were testing Marine Corps combat utility uniforms, which are supposed to be lighter and faster to dry.

Cooler Corps

Marines roll out new jungle uniform

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

While their official hymn touts Marines fighting in "ev'ry clime and place" they could tote their guns, the Corps is rolling out a lightweight uniform designed for one particular climate where grunts are expected to be hot and heavy in the coming years — humid tropical jungles.

Marine Corps Systems Command issued a contract to Vienna, Va.-based SourceAmerica to make its new tropical uniform, said Barbara Hamby, a command spokeswoman. The award is valued at nearly \$1 million.

SEE COOLER ON PAGE 2

Tiny US base in Seoul prepares to close its gates

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A few blocks from the sloping, spaceship-shaped Dongdaemun Design Plaza in one of Seoul's trendiest fashion districts is another odd sight.

A tiny U.S. Army base sits just across the street from a hospital morgue and adjacent to a park that blocks its view from a major

thoroughfare.

Known as FED, the compound has been home to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, headquarters since the 1950-53 Korean War. Before that it was the site of a Japanese-built school from the nearly four decades when Japan occupied the peninsula until its defeat in World War II.

SEE BASE ON PAGE 6



This Japanese-built structure still stands at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, compound in Seoul, South Korea.

Marcus Fichtl
Stars and Stripes

MILITARY

Sailor killed aboard USS Bush was struck by propeller

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A sailor killed aboard the USS George H.W. Bush was struck by an aircraft's turning propeller after securing the plane to the ship's flight deck, a Navy spokesman said Tuesday.

Airman Apprentice Joseph Min Naglak was struck by the propeller of an E-2C Hawkeye on Monday during flight operations aboard the aircraft

carrier, which was off the East Coast of the United States, said Navy Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a spokesman for Naval Air Force Atlantic. Naglak was the only sailor injured in the incident, which remains under investigation, Hecht said.

Naglak, 21, was an aviation boat-squad's mate from West Windsor, N.J. He had served aboard the Bush since August 2017, four months after he enlisted in the service, according to the Navy.

"The loss of a shipmate is a heart-breaking experience for a crew of a naval vessel and those aboard USS George H.W. Bush will mourn Naglak's passing and remember him always for his devoted service and sacrifice to our nation," the Navy said in a statement.

Hecht said Tuesday that sailors aboard the Bush had resumed flight operations after a brief pause following Naglak's death.

The Bush, which left Norfolk, Va.,

last week to avoid the impact of Hurricane Florence, is expected to remain at sea where it is continuing naval pilot aircraft carrier qualifications, Hecht said.

Naglak's death was the ninth of a sailor in an aviation incident during fiscal year 2018, which will end Sept. 30, according to the Naval Safety Center.

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Naglak

Cooler: Uniform described as 'like pajamas'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Initial samples will be due by the end of March for 60 days of testing, with the first 2,600 uniforms expected by late June 2019, Hamby said in an emailed statement. The Corps is prepared to purchase more uniforms as 2019 funding becomes available, the statement said.

The tropical uniform, which has been described as "like pajamas," is based on the same design as the current Marine Corps combat utilities but made of a lighter material designed to dry faster and keep Marines cooler.

While the fabric is about 30 percent lighter than current utilities, it's just as durable as the material currently in use, officials said. The knees, elbows and groin areas will be reinforced to guard against abrasions in rocky, mountainous terrain, officials have said.

The Marine Corps began testing new materials less than a year after Marines at Okinawa's Jungle Warfare Training Cen-



TYLER NOIRASWEL/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

This is one of the boots being tested by the U.S. Marine Corps at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Okinawa.

ter, or JWTC, complained in 2012 that their normal uniforms rarely dried out during training there, the systems command's Mark Richter said in a June 2013 statement.

Developed over about the past five years and tested by hundreds of Marines in Hawaii and Japan, including during training at JWTC, the new uniform comes as

the service revamps its presence in the Pacific, already its largest command.

The service has been stepping up the size of its rotations to Australia's tropical Northern Territory while shifting thousands of troops away from Okinawa to other locations in the region.

An \$8.7 billion overhaul on Guam is underway as about 4,000 Okinawa-based Marines are expected to relocate there in the mid-2020s. More than 1,000 others will be sent to Hawaii.

The lightweight uniforms will be available first to Marines slated to deploy or already stationed in tropical climates, the Corps said, and issued for contingency operations and training in tropical environments. It will not be part of a Marine's general issue.

"The tropical uniforms are also expected to be certified for sale at Marine Corps Exchanges as individual purchase for field use only," Hamby said.

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Ramstein airman wins 2018 recruiting video contest

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A Ramstein airman passionate about photography and filmmaking will get the chance to use his creative talents to help Air Force recruiters do their jobs.

Senior Airman Lane McCall, a technician with the 36th Communications Squadron, was named the winner of the Air Force's 2018 "We Are Airmen" recruiting video contest, the Air Force announced Wednesday.

McCall said he was excited to work on the production set that will turn his video into an on-air Air Force recruiting commercial, the Air Force said in a statement.

A photographer and short film director, McCall has his own YouTube channel featuring travel vlogs, tech reviews, photo shoots and other content.

In his winning video, McCall speaks at a fast, engaging clip, mixing in humor as he shows in 60 seconds what the Air Force

has to offer.

After dazzling footage of fighter jets, bombs and paratroopers, he says: "But that doesn't mean we're all pilots, jumping out of planes, blowing stuff up. Get real."

McCall goes on to describe career fields beyond the stereotype, such as cyber, mechanical, medical and engineering.

More than 70 airmen submitted videos for the contest. McCall was one of 10 finalists invited to attend the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference this week in National Harbor, Md., where the winner was announced.

Contestants had full creative control over the style, tone and content of their videos.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright selected McCall's video as this year's first-place winner.

McCall said he joined the Air Force for the education benefits.

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TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup 18
Business 20
Comics, Crossword 42, 46-47
Faces 43
Opinion 44-45
Sports 55-64
Weather 20
Weekend 21-42

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MILITARY

Ukraine pushes ahead NATO membership plan

MINSK, Belarus — Ukraine's president says the country needs to amend its constitution to make NATO membership its long-term goal.

President Petro Poroshenko said Thursday that Ukrainians are finally convinced of the benefits of the alliance with NATO and said the Ukrainian army will meet the criteria for NATO membership by 2020.

Ukraine abruptly changed its pro-Russia stance following the overthrow of the pro-Kremlin government in 2014 and Russia's annexation of Crimea a month later.

One of the arguments that Russia used to justify the annexation was fears that Ukraine would invite NATO troops to Crimea's strategic Black Sea port of Sevastopol.

Following Poroshenko's speech, the Ukrainian parliament voted to appeal to the Constitutional Court to review the amendments.

Lockheed Martin wins \$7.2B Air Force contract

DENVER — The U.S. Air Force says it is awarding Lockheed Martin a \$7.2 billion contract to build 22 next-generation Global Positioning System satellites.

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson said in a Sept. 14 statement the satellites, known as GPS 3 Follow-On, "will provide greater accuracy, and improved anti-jamming capabilities, making them more resilient."

Chip Eschenfelder, a spokesman for Lockheed Martin Space, says the satellites will be built at the company's Watertown campus in the Denver suburb of Littleton.

The Air Force says the first GPS IIIF satellite could be ready for launch in 2026.

Lockheed has been constructing 10 GPS 3 satellites for the Air Force under a previous contract.

Greek official confident of Macedonia name deal

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's foreign minister says he's confident a preliminary deal to rename neighboring Macedonia will be fully ratified despite opposition in both countries.

Nikos Kotzias says he hopes and believes Macedonians will back the name change to "North Macedonia" in a Sept. 30 referendum.

If implemented, the agreement will end a decades-old bilateral dispute and ease Macedonia's accession to NATO and the European Union.

Kotzias also said Thursday that once Macedonia's parliament amends the country's constitution to accommodate the change, Greek lawmakers will also ratify the deal — even though most opposition parties reject it.

Kotzias said the timetable for finalizing the process will probably be delayed by about a month to late January.

He spoke after talks in Athens with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas.

From The Associated Press

Paratroopers fill sky in Germany

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — A romantic Bavarian sunset gave way to a frenzy of falling paratroopers as far as the eye could see on Wednesday.

Against a backdrop of orange and pink skies, with a bright moon peeking over the hills, about 1,000 paratroopers from the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and allied forces jumped out of U.S. and Italian C-130 aircraft behind a fictitious enemy's lines.

This year's edition of the Saber Junction exercise is designed to assess the readiness of the brigade's "sky soldiers" to conduct large-scale, complex airborne operations.

"We can put a brigade combat team of 3,000-4,000 soldiers in the air, behind enemy lines, in 18 hours," said Maj. Christopher Giorgi, the lead exercise planner. "That's a pretty significant capability that not everyone else can do."

The jump marks the first day of the war games portion of the exercise, which includes more than 5,500 soldiers from 20 nations fighting a simulated invading army. They will continue the ground fight until the exercise ends at the end of the month.

"It's going to be tough," Giorgi said before the jump. "Right away, they are going to be jumping into the forward elements of the (opposition forces)."

The paratroopers launched a nighttime attack from both sides of the opposing forces after landing Wednesday.

The enemy is played by the present 1st Battalion of the 4th Infantry Regiment. They are heavily armed, with light armor vehicles and tanks alongside infantry, and will keep getting reinforcements to launch larger and more aggressive counterattacks.

"The (opposition forces) are very good at what they do," Giorgi said. "They know the terrain, they know how to fight. Their tactics would present a challenge for any unit. They're trying to win."

Throughout the war games, the paratroopers will be tested against the rural training area environment and the challenge of working side-by-side with soldiers from other nations.

"Just the terrain alone is a challenge. It's very hilly and forested," Giorgi said. "They will have challenges just talking to each other. Then you have challenges with interoperability, talking to allies with different radio sets. It's not going to be easy."

Despite everything the Army is throwing at them — or maybe because of it — the paratroopers were excited to start the fight as soon as they hit the ground.

"The jump was outstanding," said Warrant Officer Cole Brown, with the 173rd. "It's always a great day when we get out and jump. I'm glad to be a part of it."

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From top:
A paratrooper with the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team packs his parachute as more soldiers jump to the ground Wednesday during Exercise Saber Junction 18 at Hohenfels, Germany.
Paratroopers with the 173rd parachute to the ground.

Capt. William Cordes packs his gear after his jump.

PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes



PACIFIC

Aussie, US sailors celebrate 100-year bond

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Australia's ambassador to the United States relishes the story of loyalty and insubordination underpinning the centurylong military camaraderie between the two nations.

Ambassador Joe Hockey related the tale to a gathering of Australian and American sailors Tuesday as he stood aboard the HMAS Hobart docked beside the USS Wayne E. Meyer at Pearl Harbor.

Guests nibbled on seared kangaroo skewers and Tasmanian salmon during the event, a celebration of 100 years of "mateship" between two armed forces that first fought side by side in 1918 during World War I.

After five years in the trenches of that war, Australia was in dire straits, Hockey said.

"Australia had by that stage mobilized nearly 10 percent of its population," he said. "We'd suffered a 60 percent casualty rate."

In the spring of 1918, Australian Gen. John Monash, commander of the 4th Australian Division, had been directed to take the town of Hamel, France. So depleted were his ranks, Monash was granted his request for integration of 10 companies of American soldiers — still relatively green because the U.S. had joined the war only a year earlier.

"The Australians and Americans trained together, and they became very close buddies and friends — mates, as we say," Hockey said.

But the commander of American forces, Gen. John Pershing, balked at the idea of Americans fighting under a foreign general and ordered the soldiers out of the planned Hamel campaign.

"True to the American spirit, the American doughboys started to take off their uniforms and put on Australian uniforms," Hockey said. "They said, 'We are not going to walk away from our buddies.'"

Ultimately, Pershing gave in and three American companies fought in the Battle of Hamel — commenced on July 4 at Monash's direction — considered by some historians to be a key turning point in World War I.

"That's what mateship is: standing beside each other in the darkest of hours, being honest with each other, loyal to each other," he said. "When either one is under threat, we fight to the death."

"We're the only country on Earth to have fought side by side with the United States in every single major conflict. In World War I, you stepped in and really turned the war and ended what was meant to be the war to end all wars."

Adm. Philip Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told the gathering that America and its allies and partners in the region today face



PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Clockwise from top: Sailors of the HMAS Hobart pipe officers aboard the Australian destroyer Tuesday at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where Americans and Australians gathered to celebrate a century of "mateship." An Australian sailor stands high above the deck of the HMAS Hobart. Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey stands between U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. Philip Davidson, left, and Capt. John Stavridis, commander of the HMAS Hobart, during a ceremonial sunset aboard the Hobart.



"profound security threats," among them terrorists in the Philippines, the North Korea regime and China's attempts to dominate.

"I will be totally transparent with you," he said. "China is moving around the region with an open pocketbook, greasing the region with money like no other adversary we've ever faced."

This was the HMAS Hobart's first foreign port visit since it was commissioned a year ago. Capt. John Stavridis, its commander, said.

The air warfare destroyer is Australia's newest warship, the first to be armed with the Aegis combat system. The Hobart will now sail to San Diego to conduct combat system qualification trials.

"I feel a deep sense of history

standing here on the HMAS Hobart in Pearl Harbor," Hockey said of the third ship to carry that name.

"In many ways, the name reflects the history of the relationship between Australia and the United States," Hockey said.

The first was commissioned just before World War II and served side by side with American ships in the Battle of the Coral Sea and at Guadalcanal. The second was sent to assist the U.S. during the Vietnam War.

For Tuesday's "mateship" gathering, the third and newest, Aegis-armed Hobart was tethered side by side to the American ship named after Rear Adm. Wayne E. Meyer, known as the "Father of Aegis."

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PACIFIC

US man's appeal denied in '16 Okinawa slaying

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

NAHA CITY, Okinawa — A panel of Japanese judges has upheld the 2017 murder conviction of a former U.S. base worker sentenced to life imprisonment for the brutal killing of a 20-year-old Okinawan woman.

Kenneth Franklin Gadson, 34, who worked at a Kadena Air Base cable and internet provider after leaving the Marine Corps, was sentenced to life in prison with hard labor in Naha District Court on Dec. 1 after being found guilty of murder, rape resulting in death and the illegal disposal of a body in the April 28, 2016, slaying of Uruma office worker Rina Shimabukuro. He filed a petition of appeal to the Naha Branch of Fukuoka High Court late last year.

In dismissing Gadson's appeal Thursday afternoon, a three-judge panel from the high court reaffirmed he had acted with premeditation and that he intended to kill.

"There were no issues found with the original judgment," said the decision, which was read before the court Thursday afternoon by head judge Masamichi Ohkubo. "The credibility of the confession was recognized and, therefore, it was appropriate ... the defendant recognized ... each action had a high risk [to kill the victim], therefore, he had intended to murder the victim."

Gadson now has 14 days to appeal to the Supreme Court of Japan. His attorneys declined to comment Thursday on whether they planned to do so.

Gadson appeared in court for the 2 p.m. hearing wearing typical prison garments — a white T-shirt, denim pants and black slippers. He stared ahead stoically and was barely audible when asked his name and date of birth.

Shimabukuro's father, mother, grandmother and other family members were present. All were clad in black.

The judges wasted no time in dismissing the petition, which had been filed over intent. Gadson has maintained that he meant to incapacitate Shimabukuro and to move her to another location so that he could rape her. He said he did not mean to kill her.

The judges said this could not be believed based on Gadson's confession and evidence collected in the case.

"The investigators were not asking leading questions, as it was conducted by one question at the time and when the defendant got upset, investigators took enough time for the defendant to calm down," Ohkubo said.

"Also, the defendant could explain the series of violence in chronological order with some gestures during the investiga-



Gadson

tion. Then later evidence was found as the defendant confessed and his confession was supported by objective evidence," he said. "Therefore, the defendant's confession has a high credibility."

The judges said Gadson knew his actions would kill the Shimabukuro.

"The victim was taking a walk when the defendant suddenly hit the back of [her] head," Ohkubo said. "[She] could not be prepared for the force or anything. This incident alone was enough to kill a person."

Gadson began to blink with great frequency as the crime was recounted in court. The victim's family wept.

Shimabukuro disappeared after going out for a walk about 8 p.m. on April 28, 2016. Police immediately suspected she had been the victim of a crime or had suffered an accident because she left behind her car and wallet. Her phone's GPS indicated she last was in an industrial area near her home in Uruma's Suzuki district.

Police spotted a red SUV owned by Gadson while checking vehicles seen in security camera footage in the area.

Police said he admitted to strangling Shimabukuro and led officers to her body. His lawyers argued that Gadson was under the influence of sleeping pills at the time of



Shimabukuro

the confession due to a suicide attempt.

During the trial, prosecutors argued Gadson had admitted striking the victim with some sort of hard object, that he had choked her with two hands, and that he stabbed her during the initial assault — all signs that he intended to end Shimabukuro's life.

Her parents called for the death penalty, though it is rarely applied in Japan for a single homicide.

Gadson attempted to show remorse during his trial's closing arguments. "I'm not a bad person, and I didn't mean for any of this to happen," he said.

The brutal crime rocked Japan and triggered massive anti-American protests on an island where about half of the 50,000 U.S. troops in Japan are based.

Then-President Barack Obama apologized for the crime during his historic visit to Hiroshima in May 2016 following a strong rebuke from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Gadson was convicted by a panel of three judges and six jurors, who concluded that while he may not have planned to kill Shimabukuro when he attacked her, that quickly changed after he struck her from behind and she screamed and fought back.

The U.S. and Japanese governments have agreed to pay an undisclosed sum of money to Shimabukuro's family in compensation for the crime because Gadson reportedly is destitute.

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PACIFIC

Base: Facility had become occasional target of protests

FROM FRONT PAGE

Surrounded by walls topped with concertina wire, the 13-acre base can be easy to miss, one of several subinstallations that belong to the larger Yongsan Garrison just a few miles away.

But its history reflects the highs and lows of the U.S. presence in the South Korean capital. In a final act, the Corps of Engineers is preparing to close the base after it moves to Camp Humphreys as part of the long-delayed relocation of most U.S. forces south of Seoul.

Kenneth Pickler, 64, the Far East District's transportation chief, has worked on the compound since he was first deployed there as a soldier 1989, then took a job as a civilian after retiring from active duty.

The Cloverdale, Calif., native plans to retire after the FED compound closes, although he plans to remain in South Korea.

"My last official duty is to shut off the lights, lock the gate and hand the keys over ... back to the garrison," he told Stars and Stripes in an interview last month. "And that's supposed to happen in mid-November."

Highs and lows

The tree-lined FED compound, which has nearly four dozen buildings, once was thriving, with a population that reached a peak of about 700 when soldiers lived on the base. South Koreans and other visitors frequented the popular East Gate Club, with a bar and slot machines. The parking lot outside used to be a swimming pool.

Pickler recalled the Army club as a place where people celebrated weddings and St. Patrick's Day and staged parades before it started losing money and closed in 2007.

Stars and Stripes' Korea area office moved into the building

some two decades ago. The newspaper relocated to Camp Humphreys last month.

Residents also used to have garden plots where many grew their own tomatoes and chili peppers. Only one remains.

The base, which has a motor pool and gas pumps, has faced environmental concerns in the past, but Pickler said the Americans resolved the problems and replaced aging equipment with leak-proof containers and pipes.

One of the worst incidents reportedly occurred in the early 1990s when South Koreans razed a Japanese courthouse outside the perimeter to turn the area into a park and an underground parking garage.

"They didn't shore up the land properly and the ground shifted," damaging buildings and storage tanks with lines running underground, Pickler said. "We lost a couple (of) thousand gallons of fuel oil. It went into that big pit out there."

Local workers apparently pumped the toxic runoff into the storm drain instead of transporting it to a disposal unit, prompting nearby vendors to complain about the smell, Pickler said. "We remediated all of that."

South Korea's Environmental Ministry, which was created in 1994, and city officials said they lack records from that time period and couldn't provide information about the incident.

Two unexploded bombs also were found in the area — one while they were digging for the park and another as crews were building a department store nearby, Pickler recalled.

Cultural legacy

The base was an eyesore in the increasingly prosperous area. It was the occasional target of protesters, including students who seized an American flag and



PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHT/Stars and Stripes

A Korean War-era Quonset hut is seen in July at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District compound in Seoul, South Korea.



This compound in Seoul has housed the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, since the 1950-53 Korean War.

burned a hole in it before being detained by Korean police in 2003, and South Korean contractors who were angry over not getting paid for work on the troubled Camp Humphreys expansion project in 2008.

About a third of the buildings on the compound were built by the Japanese, though the Americans added their own touches.

"The Japanese first constructed the Gyeongseong School of Education in 1922, which is cur-

rently the main building at FED," according to a U.S. military installation handbook on cultural and natural resources.

The historic building has been expanded, the original entrance blocked and many of the bricks used for the original construction have been replaced, but the arch shape at the entryway, the stone foundation, stairs and arch-shaped windows remain, the 8th Army handbook says.

It's unclear what will happen

after the Corps of Engineers and other units on the base finally turn the property over to the South Korean government.

The transition that was supposed to take place in 2008 was delayed frequently due to Humphreys' construction problems and other issues.

In 2008, Seoul National University, which originally owned the land before it was seized by the government at the start of the war, appealed to have the property returned so it could build a new science research center. But that plan appears to have fizzled over time.

The university's public affairs office referred queries to the Ministry of National Defense and told Stars and Stripes that SNU has no plans to build any facilities on the property. Government officials said no plans have been set.

The base's population, meanwhile, was down to about 214 last month and is declining rapidly.

"We've been going to move to somewhere since I got here in '89," Pickler said. "But it's finally happening."

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Stars and Stripes' Korea office moves south to Camp Humphreys

By KIM GAME1
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Stars and Stripes' Korea office has moved to Camp Humphreys, the latest chapter in a history that dates to the 1950-53 war on the peninsula.

The daily newspaper, which provides independent news to the U.S. military community, celebrated the opening of its new building Thursday with a ribbon-cutting involving 13 other tenants.

Stars and Stripes previously was based on the FED compound, a 13-acre base in the fashion district of Dongdaemun in the heart of Seoul.

The base, which houses the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, will close later this year as part of the relocation of most U.S. forces to regional hubs south of Seoul.

"Stars and Stripes is honored and has the privilege to serve the military community by providing news and information that is developed by a free press and guided by the principles of objectivity and balance,"

said publisher Max Lederer, who was visiting from Washington.

"The new Camp Humphreys office is a symbol of the value of Stars and Stripes content to the community," he added. "The Camp Humphreys office is in the center of the Korean community and will ensure we are able to continue to provide quality and useful content with first-class service that the men and women of the Korean command deserve."

Stars and Stripes occupies a suite of offices on the ground floor of the new, four-story building, which sits near the flight line of the sprawling base in Pyeongtaek, about 40 miles south of Seoul.

One of its new neighbors is the USO, which has moved from its previous home on Camp Kim, where it had been based since at least 1956. The agency provides entertainment and other services for the some 28,500 U.S. troops based on the peninsula and their families.

"The center of gravity for U.S. Forces Korea has obviously shifted from Seoul to Pyeongtaek," said USO area director Douglas Boltuc after the ceremony.

He still travels frequently to Seoul to meet with corporate sponsors and donors but said he doesn't miss the old building.

"USO was in a building from the Japanese occupation, constructed in 1910," he said. "I'm pretty sure that building was haunted, so I'm very happy to be in a building that was built in 2017."

The military's relocation faced frequent delays due to problems with construction and quality control as South Korea funded most of the nearly \$10.7 billion expansion of Humphreys, formerly a remote outpost housing mainly single soldiers.

It initially was supposed to take place in 2008 but was pushed back to 2012, then 2016. It gained momentum this year. "The move has been a long time coming," said Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, the newspaper's Tokyo-based commander. "We are following our audience in a lot of ways. A lot of the political content comes out of the Seoul area; however, the preponderance of our customers have moved to Camp Humphreys."

The history of Stars and Stripes on the peninsula began with the North Korea in-

vasion on June 25, 1950. Cpl. Ernie Peeler, one of the first reporters deployed to the front lines, went missing and was presumed dead after his Jeep was ambushed by enemy forces.

Copies of a special Korean edition were airdropped to troops when U.S.-led United Nations forces launched their successful attack on Incheon.

The newspaper was prepared in Tokyo and was flown to South Korea until Sept. 29, 1950, when the first run of 30,000 copies rolled off the presses in the southern port city of Busan.

It currently has a staff of nearly 30 people, including drivers, customer service representatives, advertising specialists and multimedia consultants.

Other tenants in the new building include the Defense Commissary Agency, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the 411th Contracting Support Brigade.

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PACIFIC

Moon has message for Trump from Kim

By FOSTER KLUG
and ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A beaming South Korean President Moon Jae-in, freshly returned home Thursday from a whirlwind three-day summit with Kim Jong Un, said the North Korean leader wants the U.S. secretary of state to visit Pyongyang soon for nuclear talks and also hopes for a quick follow-up to his June summit with President Donald Trump.

Only hours after standing with Kim on the peak of a volcano that's at the heart of Kim dynasty propaganda, Moon told reporters in Seoul that he will be carrying a private message from Kim to Trump about the nuclear standoff when he meets the U.S. president in New York next week on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session.

Both Trump, who has repeatedly spoken of his good relationship with Kim, and the North Korean leader have expressed a desire to follow up on the June meeting in Singapore that was meant to settle an impasse that seemed to be edging toward war last year. But there are worries among observers about whether Kim is as committed to denuclearization as he claims.

Moon faces increasing pressure from Washington to find a path forward in efforts to get Kim to completely and unilaterally abandon his nuclear arsenal, which is thought to be closing in on the ability to accurately target any part of the continental United States.

"There are things that the United States wants us to convey to North Korea, and on the other side there are also things that North Korea wants us to convey to the United States," Moon said at a press center in Seoul where reporters had watched parts of his summit with Kim on huge video screens that occasionally showed live streams from Pyongyang. "I will faithfully serve that role when I meet President Trump to facilitate dialogue between North Korea and the United States."

Moon, who set up the Singapore summit and is eager for another one, also told reporters that he'll convey to Trump his and Kim's desire to get a declaration on ending the Korean War by the end of this year. The war still



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, second from right, and his wife, Kim Jung-sook, stand Thursday with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, on Mount Paektu in North Korea.

PHOTOS BY PYONGYANG PRESS CORPS POOL/AP



Moon, foreground right, and Kim raise their hands after watching a performance in Pyongyang, North Korea.

technically continues because it ended in 1953 with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty. An end-of-war declaration would be the first step toward an eventual formal peace treaty, but the United States is wary about signing off on something that could result in Kim pushing for the removal of U.S. troops stationed in South Korea to earlier the North.

Earlier Thursday, Kim and Moon took to the road for the final day of their summit, hiking to the peak of Mount Paektu, which is considered sacred in the North, their hands clasped and raised in a pose of triumph. Their

"Chairman Kim Jong Un has again and again affirmed his commitment to denuclearization," Moon said after returning to Seoul. "He expressed his wish to finish a complete denuclearization as soon as possible and focus on economic development."

Moon said North Korea's agreement to allow international experts to observe a "permanent" dismantling of a missile engine test site and launch pad was the same thing as a commitment to "verifiably and irreversibly" demolish those facilities.

Moon says such steps, combined with North Korea's unilateral but unverified dismantling of a nuclear testing ground earlier this year, would prevent the North from advancing its weaponry through further nuclear and missile tests. Experts say the destruction of the missile engine test site and launch pad wouldn't represent a material step in the denuclearization of North Korea, which declared its nuclear force complete last year and has designed its most powerful missiles to be fired from vehicles.

Moon also said that Kim hoped to visit Seoul soon.

"I wish there would be an opportunity for my fellow citizens to see Chairman Kim Jong Un

for themselves and hear him talking about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, peace and prosperity with his own voice," the South Korean president said.

Earlier in the day, the leaders smiled broadly as they posed at the summit of Paektu, their wives grinning at their sides, a brilliant blue sky and the deep crater lake that tops the volcano in the background. They also toured the shores of the lake, where Moon and his wife filled bottles with its water and a South Korean pop singer delivered for the leaders a rendition of a beloved Korean folk song, "Arirang," which is used in both Koreas as an unofficial anthem for peace.

The mountain is important to the Kim family, members of which are referred to as sharing the "Paektu bloodline," and the volcano is emblazoned on North Korea's national emblem and lends its name to everything from rockets to power stations.

Many South Koreans also feel drawn to the volcano, which, according to Korean mythology, was the birthplace of Dangun, the founder of the first ancient Korean kingdom, and has long been considered one of the most beautiful places on the peninsula.

Not everyone was pleased, though. About 100 anti-North Korea protesters rallied in central Seoul to express anger about the summit and displayed slogans that read, "No to SK-NK summit that betrays Kim Jong Un."

The leaders are basking in the glow of the joint statement they signed Wednesday. Compared with the vague language of their two earlier summits, Kim and Moon seem to have agreed on an ambitious program meant to tackle soaring tensions that caused many to fear war last year as the North tested a string of increasingly powerful weapons.

Both leaders also vowed to work together to try to host the Summer Olympics in 2032.

While containing several tantalizing offers, their joint statement appeared to fall short of the major steps many in Washington have been looking for — such as a commitment by Kim to provide a list of North Korea's nuclear facilities, a solid step-by-step timeline for closing them down, or an agreement to allow international inspectors to assess progress or discover violations.

Japan could use Aegis Ashore system to shoot down Guam-bound missiles

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan will legally be able to use planned Aegis Ashore systems to intercept North Korean missiles launched toward Guam, a top government official said this week.

A pacifist constitution bans Japan from stepping in to defend other nations unless it was also being attacked; however, security legislation passed in 1992 allows the country to exercise its right to collective defense and to defend close allies when at-

tacked — under certain conditions.

Those include: when an armed attack against Japan or a close ally "threatens Japan's survival and poses a clear danger to fundamentally overturn people's right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness; when there are no other ways to repel an attack; and if it limits the use of force to the minimum extent required.

The legislation faced strong opposition from those concerned that it could cause Japan to be dragged into a military conflict.

"Our view on the three new conditions

under the peace and security legislation will not change by the introduction of Aegis Ashore," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.

The purchase of the approximately \$3.6 billion missile-defense batteries was approved by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet in December, after North Korea test-fired three intercontinental ballistic missiles that flew over Japan.

The government hopes to base the systems in Akita prefecture in northern Japan and in Yamaguchi prefecture in the west by March 2024. However, local govern-

ments have questioned the need for Aegis Ashore after tensions with North Korea have cooled following a June summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korea has not fired a missile since November.

Last year, Defense Minister Tsurunori Onodera used a similar argument when announcing that Japan would legally be able to shoot down North Korean ballistic missiles using Standard Missile Block II A interceptors on Aegis destroyers. The country plans to deploy them by March 2022.

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MILITARY



MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Representatives of 28 countries toured U.S. training facilities in Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Wednesday. They saw a display of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

US showcases new weaponry for Russia, 27 other countries

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The U.S. Army on Wednesday demonstrated its newest armaments to representatives of 28 nations, including Russia and Afghanistan, as part of its obligation under an international arms control treaty.

The Vienna Document requires the Army to host a visit to a military facility once every five years and demonstrate to participating states new weapons and equipment systems that have recently been deployed to Europe.

"This gives us the opportunity to showcase what the Army is doing and what our equipment is capable of," said Kenneth Periman, chief of U.S. Army Europe's Treaty Compliance Branch. "But most importantly, it's to comply with the treaty."

This year was the first time many of the nations were able to see the new M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and witness a live-fire demonstration of the XM1296 Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle-

Dragon, both of which the U.S. Army recently fielded to units in Europe.

The 1990 Vienna Document is one of the principal confidence-building measures within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, according to the group. The accord mandates all member states share information on their military forces, equipment and defense planning.

Much of the U.S. military equipment in Europe is part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a NATO mission to deter Russia from taking any aggressive action against NATO members, which began after the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014.

However, Russian Col. Aleksey Belov said his country's delegation was glad to be invited to look at the American military equipment and that working with the U.S. Army has been going well.

"If there are no politicians interfering with the working relations, the relations are very good," Belov said.

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Lawsuits combined in Texas church shooting

Air Force admitted missteps, victims' attorney says

From wire reports

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas — A federal judge will consolidate all federal lawsuits against the U.S. Air Force over the Texas church shooting that killed more than two dozen worshippers.

Senior U.S. District Judge David Ezra announced Wednesday that the lawsuits will be consolidated and handled by U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez. Four lawsuits have been filed so far by victims or their relatives, but more are expected.

Ezra said the consolidation will be similar to a mass tort case. He said the court has sympathy for the victims and there's no reason to spread out the cases.

The Air Force admitted it failed to report veteran Devin P. Kelley's past crimes to the federal database, the suits state, which allowed him to pass a background check and obtain the firearms he used in the shooting.

The Johnson and McNulty families filed their lawsuits earlier this month. The two families filed negligence claims earlier this year and were required to give the government six months to try to respond. Attorney Jamal Alsaif said his clients got "nothing more than a cursory response" in that time, so they decided to sue once the deadline hit.

"The government has done nothing, literally nothing, to resolve the claims or help the families," Alsaif told The Dallas Morning News on Thursday. "That's why we had to file the lawsuits because there was no effort made."

On Nov. 5, Kelley shot and killed 26 parishioners — including a pregnant woman — who were attending Sunday services at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. Among the victims were Tara McNulty, 33, a mother of two, and Sara, 68,

and Dennis Johnson Sr., 77.

Two other families sued the federal government earlier this year. Margarette Vidal, who survived after being shot in the knee and next to her spine, and Joe and Clarence Holcombe, who lost nine family members in the massacre. Their lawsuits have been consolidated, a step Alsaif expects all of the families to take.

Due to the doctrine of sovereign immunity, it's usually almost impossible to sue the federal government. But under the Federal Tort Claims Act, people can seek damages in limited cases if they can prove direct negligence on the part of the government.

Kelley, an Air Force veteran, had a history of violence and mental illness. He received a bad-conduct discharge in 2014 after he was convicted of beating his first wife and assaulting his stepson, and he had escaped two years earlier from a mental facility where he was admitted after threatening to kill his superior officers. Normally, these incidents would have landed Kelley on the FBI's criminal database and kept him from legally owning guns.

But the Air Force failed to report his crimes, allowing Kelley to pass two background checks before he purchased the Ruger AR-556 he used in the shooting.

In their lawsuit filed Wednesday, Dennis and Sara Johnson's children claim the government's admitted failures entitle them to damages for pain and suffering, mental anguish, mental health care expenses, past and future lost income and earning capacity and funeral costs.

There is no dollar figure named in the lawsuit.

The San Antonio Express-News, via The Associated Press, and The Dallas Morning News contributed to this report.

Navy: 'Minor' leak in nuclear plant prompts sub's return to Conn. base

By JULIA BERGMAN

The (New London, Conn.) Day

The Connecticut-based attack submarine USS Pittsburgh recently had to return to Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton from being out to sea due to a "minor" leak within its nuclear propulsion plant, the Navy says.

"The USS Pittsburgh recently returned from sea to conduct logistics, maintenance, and repairs," a statement from Cmdr. Sarah Self-Kyler, spokeswoman for the Navy's Atlantic submarine fleet, said. "This action is not uncommon, and ensures the ship is maintained at a high state of readiness."

The Pittsburgh, a Los Angeles-class attack submarine, was commissioned in 1985.

The "minor moisture leakage" was discovered during a routine inspection while the boat was underway. The source of the moisture was near a valve in the

propulsion plant. The issue did not impact the ability of the propulsion plant to function properly.

"The amount of moisture was so small that it was only detected by sensitive humidity detection equipment inside the ship's reactor compartment, a typically unmanned space," Self-Kyler said.

The moisture was fully contained within the reactor compartment, and did not affect the safety of the reactor. There was no risk posed to the crew or the ship, she said.

Each U.S. Navy submarine has a pressurized-water reactor, which has a primary coolant system and a secondary coolant system. The primary system circulates water, which is pressurized to keep it from boiling. The water is heated as it moves through the reactor, then goes through the steam generator, and then flows back to the reactor to be reheated.

The heat from that water is transferred to the secondary system, which is isolated from the

primary system, to create steam. The steam flows through the secondary system to the propulsion turbines, which turn the propellers, and the turbine generators, which supply the ship with electricity.

Sub base personnel and the ship's crew are working to fix the problem, which is best addressed in port, the Navy said.

Self-Kyler indicated there would be no impact on the submarine force's ability to carry out missions.

"USS Pittsburgh's return to port does not create a lack of presence," she said. "The Submarine Force remains fully ready to support combatant commanders worldwide."

Ninety-four Navy ships, including submarines, were deployed as of Wednesday, according to the Navy's website. The Navy's fleet currently consists of 285 ships. The Navy currently has 67 submarines, including 50 attack submarines.



BRADLEY J. GEE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A "minor moisture leakage" recently forced the attack submarine USS Pittsburgh to return to Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn., from being out to sea, the Navy says.

NATION

Carolinas feeling fatigued from Florence

BY CLAIRE GALOFARO
AND JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Florence is still wearing out the Carolinas, where residents have endured an agonizing week of violent winds, torrential rain, widespread flooding, power outages and death.

Frustration and sheer exhaustion are building as thousands of people wait to go home seven days after the storm began battering the coast. Florence is blamed for at least 37 deaths, including those of two women who drowned when a sheriff's van taking them to a mental health facility was swept off a road.

"I'm just ready for this to be over, to be honest," said Evan Jones, a college student who evacuated from Wilmington and doesn't know when he will get back. "I'm trying to get it all out of my head."

With the remnants of Florence finally out to sea and skies bright over rivers still swelling with muddy water, President Donald Trump visited the disaster zone, riding through soggy neighborhoods and helping pass out warm meals at a church.

"America grieves with you and our hearts break for you. God bless you," Trump said during a briefing in Havelock, N.C.

There wasn't any presidential fanfare 120 miles away in Fayetteville. There, Roberta and Joseph Keithley had been sleeping on cots set up in a school classroom since last Friday. They still didn't know if their home was ruined.

"It's getting a little frustrating, but you have to deal with it and roll with the punches," said Roberta Keithley, 73. "It's just another hurdle to get over in life."

To the south, daybreak brought a return of floodwaters to Nichols, S.C., which also was inundated by Hurricane Matthew two years ago. The flooding from Florence had subsided, only to get worse again.

Mayor Lawson Battle said that as far as he knew, everyone in the town of about 360 people evacuated as the water first started to invade town Monday. But Battle



Army Sgt. Rose Stromberg holds the American flag she retrieved Wednesday from her flooded storage unit in Spring Lake, N.C. The flag, which is adorned with all the names of those killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, flew with her during her deployment in Afghanistan.



PHOTOS BY DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Smita Depani and her husband, Kishor, sort through the damage of the motel they co-own and lived in which was destroyed.

just couldn't think about that anymore.

"I'm focusing on this disaster at hand," he said. "I don't have time to think. I'm just so tired."

Ferry service for the public has resumed for several coastal routes in North Carolina. Meanwhile, a section of Interstate 95 was closed anew because bridges crossing the Great Pee Dee River

flooded, said officials in South Carolina.

Access improved to Wilmington, a North Carolina port city of 120,000 that was cut off for days by high water. But officials said they didn't know when evacuees would be able to return home, and it may be next week before conditions improve drastically since the Cape Fear River isn't

expected to crest at the city until Monday or Tuesday.

"Understand: There is a lot of water inland, and it is continuing to make its way downstream," county manager Chris Coudreir said.

Nearly 3 feet of rain fell in places, and dozens of cities had more than 10 inches of rain. Roads remained dangerous and some were still being closed as swollen rivers emptied toward the ocean.

North Carolina officials said 7,800 people remained in shelters, down from about 10,000 on Monday, despite Gov. Roy Cooper's plea to stay put.

In Lumberton, where the Lumber River still covered parts of town, water was deep enough that vehicles passing by on streets sent wakes into partially submerged homes, businesses and a church.

Some of those who left shelters may have been headed toward the coast on U.S. 421, where a long line of cars, utility crews and trucks loaded with generators sat in a jam.

About 120,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity in North Carolina, about 20 percent in the county where

Wilmington is located. There, more than 25,000 remain in the dark.

The deaths, which have occurred in three states, include those of two women who were being taken to a mental health facility when the van they were riding in was engulfed by floodwaters from the Little Pee Dee River in South Carolina, authorities said.

Horry County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Brooke Holden said two deputies in the van tried to get the victims out but couldn't. Rescue teams plucked the deputies from the top of the vehicle. They were placed on leave pending an investigation.

Sheriff Phillip Thompson said he does not believe the women were in restraints like those sometimes used on psychiatric patients.

It wasn't clear why the women were being moved in the aftermath of a killer hurricane, and Justin Bamberg, a lawyer who has represented the families of several people injured or killed by law officers, said he was perplexed by the decision.

"If that road is in an area where it is a flood risk, and waters were rising, why were they driving on that road anyway?" said Bamberg, a state lawmaker.

At least 24 of Florence's victims died in vehicles, and most were in accidents linked to flooding.

North Carolina's farmers, meanwhile, are beginning to count up their losses.

The Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina estimated up to 125 million pounds of tobacco leaf could be damaged by flooding, winds and power outages, an amount that could translate to as much as \$350 million in lost farm revenue.

Association CEO Graham Boyd said about 40 percent of the crop was still in the field when the storm hit. North Carolina is the nation's top producer of tobacco.

The flooding has killed an estimated 3.4 million chickens and 5,500 hogs, authorities said. Farmers are also concerned about cotton, sweet potatoes, peanuts and corn, but swamped roads and fields have made it difficult to assess the damage.

Floods prevent inspectors from studying environmental harm

BY MICHAEL BRISECKER
Associated Press

Aerial photographs show widespread devastation to farms and industrial sites in eastern North Carolina, with tell-tale trails of rainbow-colored sheen indicating potential contamination visible on top of the floodwaters.

However, conditions remain so bad more than five days after Hurricane Florence made landfall that the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality said its inspectors have been unable to visit the hardest hit areas or collect samples of the floodwater for lab testing.

The agency's regional office in Fayetteville had one foot of water inside, while

other locations were without electricity.

"DEQ is waiting for travel conditions to improve ... before we can safely inspect the damage reported by farmers to the hog lagoons," said Megan Thorpe, spokeswoman for the state environmental agency. "Personally, our staff are facing damage to their homes and those who evacuated are trying to get back. Many staff are helping their colleagues with cleanup."

State inspectors were able to make it Tuesday to a Wilmington power plant where a landfill breached last weekend, spilling enough coal ash to fill about 180 dump trucks. Duke Energy said Wednesday that water samples collected by its employees and tested at the company's

own lab showed "no evidence of a coal ash impact" to nearby Sutton Lake or the Cape Fear River.

Thorpe said state environmental regulators were waiting on the results of their own testing before determining whether there were any violations of clean water quality rules.

Pressed Wednesday on whether any federal regulators were at work in the flood-affected areas, a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency referred a reporter to a news release about a regional administrator visiting with state officials at an office in Raleigh.

"Water is still rising, flooding is widespread, and lives are still in danger," EPA

Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn said, according to the media release. "The government's first responsibility is to protect lives and the health of the citizens impacted."

State officials said they have received reports that the earthen dam at one hog lagoon in Duplin County had breached over the weekend, spilling feces and urine. According to figures released Wednesday, four other lagoons had some structural damage, 17 had been flooded by nearby rivers and 21 were so full they overflowed. Large mounds of manure are also typically stored at poultry farms.

An environmental threat is also posed by human waste as low-lying municipal sewage plants flood.

NATION

Trump roundups of immigrants net noncriminals

By MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A daughter who never returned home, a son gunned down point-blank, a mom who was brutally attacked — all deaths at the hands of immigrants in the country illegally, all gripping stories the White House has been eager to share.

But for all the talk of murderers, rapists and other “bad hombres,” those netted in President Donald Trump’s crackdown on immigration are typically accused of lesser offenses, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are increasingly apprehending those with no criminal records at all.

“Unshackling ICE has really allowed it to go after more individuals,” said Sarah Pierce, a policy analyst with the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute who calls the apprehension of noncriminal immigrants, in particular, “a defining characteristic of this administration’s approach to immigration.”

The case of Mollie Tibbetts — a 20-year-old Iowa college student authorities say was killed by a man living in the U.S. illegally — is among the latest used by Trump to advance his argument for stricter immigration controls. Yet the government’s own statistics show such cases are far more likely to be the exception than the rule.

ICE arrests of noncriminals increased 66 percent in the first nine months of the 2018 fiscal year over the same period a year earlier. Arrests of convicts, meantime, rose nearly 2 percent. More noncriminals also have been deported. Among those expelled from the U.S. interior in fiscal 2017, there was a 174 percent increase from the previous year of those with no criminal convictions. Deportations of those with convictions rose nearly 13 percent over the same period.

The result is immigration courts are filling with defendants like Ruben Moroyquí, 45, a mechanic in Tucson, Ariz., whose only run-in with police came last year, his attorney said, when he was pulled over while picking up auto parts.

First, the officer asked for his license. His second question, Moroyquí said, was “Are you here legally?” He wasn’t cited for any driving violation; he was simply handed over to ICE, which began proceedings to deport him to Mexico. An appeal is pending.

Moroyquí entered the country with authorization 16 years ago but then overstayed his visa, not wanting to return home because of the lack of opportunity there. He has four U.S. citizen children and said he has always paid his taxes. “I feel great respect and love for this country,” he said.

ICE has heralded its deportations of drug kingpins, violent gang members and others accused of serious offenses, and in the 2017 fiscal year, it reported that 56 percent of all deportees it processed — from the interior U.S. and border — had been convicted of crimes. But under Trump, as with prior administrations, when a deportee does have a criminal record, it’s generally for lesser infractions.



RICK SCUTEN/AP

Ruben Moroyquí talks with his son, Rafael, in his auto repair shop in Tucson, Ariz., this month. Moroyquí, who was in the U.S. illegally, was taken into custody by immigration authorities after he was pulled over but not cited with any driving infraction.

Among more than 220,000 deportees in the 2017 fiscal year, 79,270 had no convictions, according to ICE data housed by the Transactional Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. Of those with records, according to the data, 1 in 4 had illegal entry or re-entry to the U.S. as their most serious offenses. Those two counts represented the first- and third-most common charges among deportees. Driving under the influence was second, followed by assault convictions and traffic offenses. Drug trafficking, burglary, domestic violence, larceny and selling marijuana rounded out the top 10 offenses.

The rest of those with records were convicted of a wide range of misdemeanors, both grave crimes like kidnapping and minor offenses including taking a joy ride, gambling or violating a fish conservation statute.

With a spotlight on the separation of immigrant children and their parents this summer, Trump tried to refocus attention on dangerous immigrants by hosting a White House event with relatives of those killed by people in the country illegally. “These are the American citizens that are permanently separated from their loved ones,” Trump said. “These are the stories that Democrats and the people that are weak on immigration, they don’t want to discuss.”

And yet the most serious crimes, such as murder and rape, are relatively rare among deportees. Studies also have found immigrants to the U.S. have a lower level of criminality than citizens.

GOP: Kavanaugh accuser’s time to talk running out

By ALAN FRAM
AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans say they’re forging ahead in their drive to push Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination through the Senate, even as the woman accusing him of a decades-old sexual attack is threatening to boycott a committee hearing and suggesting she’s not being treated with “fairness and respect.”

With Kavanaugh’s confirmation dangling in the balance, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said his panel still planned a Monday morning hearing that Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford were invited to attend.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, has told Ford’s attorneys that the panel was giving the California psychology professor until 10 a.m. Friday to submit a biography and a prepared statement “if she intends to testify.”

Kavanaugh, currently a judge on the powerful District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, has denied the charges.

Democrats have leapt to Ford’s defense, with Washington state Sen. Patty Murray saying Thursday that Republicans should be “cautious” for pushing forward without a fair investigation. That echoed Democrats’ effort to broaden the nomination fight into a referendum on whether women who allege abuse are taken seriously by men — a theme that could echo in this November’s elections for control of Congress.

“If you have been assaulted or harassed by a powerful Republi-

can man, you better not talk about it or you’re going to pay a price,” Murray said.

Through her attorneys, Ford left her attendance in doubt. And despite Grassley’s schedule, it remained unclear if that hearing would occur without her, as a drama that has riveted Washington since emerging a week ago was injected with a fresh burst of election-season suspense.

Ford lawyer Lisa Banks said in a statement late Wednesday that Ford would cooperate with a thorough, nonpartisan probe. After indicating earlier this week that she would appear before lawmakers, Ford wants other witnesses — not just Ford and Kavanaugh — to participate and wants the FBI to reopen its background check of Kavanaugh. Those demands have been backed by Democrats but dismissed by top Republicans.

Ford has contended that at a house party in the 1980s, a drunken Kavanaugh tried undressing her and stifling her cries on a bed before she fled.

Republicans are resisting all Democratic efforts to slow and perhaps block what once seemed a smooth path to confirmation that would promote the conservative appeals court judge by the Oct. 1 opening of the Supreme Court’s new term. A substantial delay could push confirmation past the November elections, when Democrats have a shot at winning Senate control, plus allow more time for unforeseen problems to pop up.

There were signs the GOP’s strategy of planning a nationally televised hearing yet also offering Ford the option to testify privately was keeping possible Republican defections in check. The party controls the Senate 51-49 and the Judiciary panel by 11-10, so it cannot afford GOP “no” votes.



Grassley

Lawmaker: Senate, staff targeted by state-backed hackers

By FRANK BAJAK AND RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

Foreign government-backed hackers continue to target the personal email accounts of U.S. senators and their aides — and the Senate’s security office has refused to defend them, a lawmaker says.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in a letter to Senate leaders Wednesday that his office discovered that “at least one major technology company” has warned an unspecified number of senators and aides that their personal email accounts were “targeted by foreign government hackers.”

That message was employed by Russian military agents who leaked the con-

tents of private email inboxes to influence the 2016 elections.

Wyden did not specify the timing of the notifications, but a Senate staffer said they occurred “in the last few weeks or months.” The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

But the senator said the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, which oversees Senate security, informed legislators and staffers that it has no authority to help secure personal, rather than official, accounts.

“This must change,” Wyden wrote in the letter. “The November election grows ever closer, Russia continues its attacks on our

democracy, and the Senate simply does not have the luxury of further delays.”

A spokeswoman for the security office said it would have no comment.

Wyden has proposed legislation that would allow the security office to offer digital protection for personal accounts and devices the same way it does with official ones. His letter did not provide additional details of the attempts to pry into the lawmakers’ digital lives, including whether lawmakers of both parties are still being targeted.

Google and Microsoft, which offer popular email accounts, declined to comment.

The Wyden letter cites previous Associated Press reporting on the Russian hack-

ing group known as Fancy Bear and how it targeted the personal accounts of congressional aides between 2015 and 2016. The group’s prolific cyberespionage targeted the Gmail accounts of current and former Senate staffers, including Robert Zarate, now national security adviser to Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Jason Thielman, chief of staff to Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., the AP found.

The same group also spent the second half of 2017 laying digital traps intended to look like portals where Senate officials enter their work email credentials, the Tokyo-based cybersecurity firm Trend Micro has reported.

NATION

Official: More possible assault victims of accused doctor found

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Investigators have identified three more possible victims after a California surgeon and his girlfriend were charged with drugging and raping two intoxicated women, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Michelle Van Der Linden, a spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office, said prosecutors have received numerous calls since Tuesday, when the initial charges were announced against Dr. Grant Robicheaux and Cerissa Riley.

Robicheaux once appeared in a reality TV show called "Online Dating Rituals of the American Male."

Defense attorneys say the suspects deny the claims.

"All allegations of nonconsensual sex are unequivocally denied by Grant Robicheaux and his girlfriend Cerissa Riley," attorneys Philip Cohen and Scott

Borthwick said in a statement.

The attorneys said none of the allegations involves Robicheaux's medical practice or patients.

Robicheaux, 38, of Newport Beach, and Riley, 31, of Brea, were arrested Sept. 12 after being charged with rape by use of drugs, oral copulation by anesthesia or controlled substance, and other crimes, District Attorney Tony Rackauckas told reporters.

He said investigators were examining thousands of videos and images on Robicheaux's phone.

Some videos show women who "appear to be highly intoxicated beyond the ability to consent or resist, and they're barely responsive to the defendant's sexual advances," Rackauckas said.

Authorities say women met the pair during social encounters where they became intoxicated and ended up at Robicheaux's apartment.

"The second defendant, being



Robicheaux

Riley

a female, is key," Rackauckas said. "A woman purporting to be his girlfriend clearly played a significant role in disarming the victims, making them feel comfortable and safe."

The district attorney showed reporters video of Robicheaux appearing in the Bravo reality TV show "Online Dating Rituals of the American Male" and photos of the two suspects in various locations.

He said the images could "jog the public's memory" and possibly could encourage other people to come forward.

Bravo said in a statement that the show aired for one season, is no longer in production and there are no plans to bring it back.

Robicheaux and Riley were released on \$100,000 bail each and are scheduled for arraignment Oct. 24.

US tags Iran anew as top sponsor of terrorism; says global attacks down

By SUSANNAH GEORGE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, the Trump administration said Wednesday in an annual report that also highlighted another drop in terrorist attacks worldwide.

The State Department's annual survey of global terrorism accused Iran of intensifying numerous conflicts and trying to undermine governments throughout the Middle East and beyond. Iran's "terrorist affiliates and proxies," the report said, "demonstrated a near-global terrorist reach."

The number of worldwide terrorist attacks dropped by 23 percent last year compared with 2016, according to the report, a change largely due to gains against Islamic State in Iraq. The number also had declined in 2016 from the previous year.

The report comes as the Trump administration is toughening its stance against Iran. President Donald Trump withdrew from the landmark nuclear accord with Iran earlier this year and has begun to dismantle sanctions relief granted under the 2015 deal.

Reimposing sanctions is one part of a larger effort by the U.S. to cut Iran off from funds used to support proxy forces and other "malign activity" in the region, including terrorism, according to Trump administration officials.

"Iran uses terrorism as a tool of its statecraft; it has no reservations about using that tool on any continent," Ambassador Nathan Spence, the State Department coordinator for counterterror-

ism, told journalists Wednesday. He cited Iran-linked fundraising networks in West Africa, weapons caches in South America and operational activity in Europe.

The report specifically cited the activities of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the powerful Revolutionary Guard commander who also helped organize the Iraqi militias against ISIS.

The 23 percent drop in worldwide terrorist attacks in 2017 was attributed mainly to fewer attacks in Iraq.

Iran used the Revolutionary Guard "to provide support to terrorist organizations, provide cover for associated covert operations, and create instability in the Middle East," the report stated.

Also in the Middle East, Iranian fighters and Iran-backed militias, like Lebanon's Hezbollah, emerged emboldened from the war in Syria with valuable battlefield experience they seek to leverage elsewhere, according to the report.

The 23 percent drop in worldwide terrorist attacks in 2017 was attributed mainly to fewer attacks in Iraq, where territory once held by ISIS was retaken by government forces. Deaths due to terrorist attacks also decreased by 27 percent last year. The report said ISIS alone carried out 23 percent fewer terrorist attacks and caused 53 percent fewer total deaths compared with 2016.

Despite the drop in attacks,

the report described the terrorist landscape as "more complex" and said the terrorist threat to the U.S. and allies around the world had "evolved."

As ISIS lost territory, the group became "dispersed and clandestine, turning to the internet to inspire attacks by distant followers," which has made the group "less susceptible to conventional military action," the report said.

The report stated that ISIS and groups that pledged allegiance to ISIS carried out attacks in more than 20 countries worldwide in 2017.

Also in 2017, al-Qaida quietly expanded its membership and operations, with a global network that includes forces in Syria, North Africa, Somalia and the Indian subcontinent in addition to core forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"They have largely remained out of the headlines in recent years," Sales said Wednesday, "but we shouldn't confuse a period of relative quiet with al-Qaida's abandonment of its capabilities or its intentions to strike us or our allies."

The report highlighted a truck bombing in Mogadishu in October 2017 carried out by the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group that killed hundreds of people in "the deadliest terrorist attack in Somali history."

The report stated that terrorist attacks took place in 100 countries in 2017, but were concentrated geographically, with 59 percent of all attacks taking place in just five countries: Afghanistan, India, Iraq, Pakistan and the Philippines.

VA technical errors mar GI Bill housing payments

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — About 340,000 students attending school using the GI Bill received slightly smaller housing payments in August than they're eligible for under federal law, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Monthly housing allowances help student veterans pay for their housing costs, utilities and food. Veterans who started the 2018-19 school year last month received incorrect payments caused by delays at the VA Office of Information and Technology in complying with new rules on how stipends are calculated.

The VA is still working to fix the problem, and officials have not said whether this month's payments will be corrected.

In a letter this week to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, 15 veterans groups described it as "an organizational and customer service failure at the highest level."

"These incorrect payments are asking veterans, their families, and schools to bear the burden of VA's problems," the groups wrote. "They have left students and schools confused, with improper payments, and absent a clearly articulated timeline for when these issues will be fixed."

Last year, Congress approved the Forever GI Bill, which included numerous changes to veterans' education benefits. One change calls for calculating veterans' housing allowances based on the ZIP codes of the campuses where they attend classes rather than defaulting to the main campuses.

Because of technology problems, the VA failed to meet an Aug. 1 deadline to implement the change. VA officials told lawmakers that it would be done by mid-August, but that deadline came and went, too, without a fix.

When the fall semester started,

the VA sent student veterans their housing allowances based on 2017 rates. For about 340,000 students, that means they received payments that didn't account for cost-of-living increases in 2018. According to the VA, the incorrect housing stipends were an average of 1 percent less than they should have been.

In Fort Collins, Colo., the difference between the amount that veterans received and the amount that they are entitled to receive was \$138 per student.

Marc Barker, director of adult learner and veterans services at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, said student veterans are flooding his office with questions about the incorrect payments.

About 1,400 students at Colorado State are veterans who use VA education benefits. They're adult students, and in some cases, have mortgages and children, Barker said.

"Many of them have outside responsibilities, and they've made the transition back to higher education in good faith that their benefits will be delivered to them in a timely and accurate way," he said. "They're counting on that. When that's not happening, it becomes a barrier to their success in the classroom. They're focused and worried about these things they shouldn't have to be concerned about."

The VA isn't communicating with affected students, Barker said, and Colorado State hasn't been able to receive concrete answers from the agency to share with students.

If veterans at Colorado State receive incorrect payments again when housing allowances are disbursed at the end of September, the school is prepared to pay the difference to each affected student in October, he said.

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JROTC instructor charged with sex assaults of 2 girls

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — An Air Force JROTC instructor is accused of sexually assaulting two girls at a North Carolina high school.

News outlets report that Bradley Scott Gibson, 52, was arrested Wednesday in connection with the assaults, which Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said in a news release took place this year and in 2010.

Police say they were notified

Sept. 12 of the assault of a 15-year-old at Independence High School. During the course of the investigation, police identified a woman who said she was 17 when sexually assaulted in 2010.

According to Independence High's JROTC website, Gibson has taught at the school for a decade. He was a security policeman for 25 years, listing several medals for service during the Gulf War and in Afghanistan.

It's unclear whether he has a lawyer.



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NATION

Multiple deaths in shooting at Maryland facility

Associated Press

ABERDEEN, Md. — Three people were killed Thursday morning in a shooting at a Rite Aid distribution center in northeast Maryland, officials said.

A law enforcement official with knowledge of the shooting stressed that the number of dead is based on preliminary information. The official wasn't authorized to discuss details by name and spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press.

A suspect was taken into custody and was in critical condition, Harford County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler told a news conference.

It appears there was only one weapon, a handgun, that was used and there were no shots fired by responding law enforcement officers, Gahler said. Gahler also said multiple people had been killed and wounded in the shooting, without giving any other details on casualties.

Gahler said the call about shots fired came in from the Rite Aid distribution center at about 9:06 a.m. and deputies and other officers were on the scene in just over five minutes.

"We are so preliminary in this investigation," Gahler said.

"It's so important that we deal in facts." He said authorities don't want to "make it worse" for the families involved by giving out incorrect information.

The attack came nearly three months after a man armed with a shotgun attacked a newspaper office in Annapolis, Md., killing five staff members. Authorities accused Jarrod W. Ramos of attacking The Capital Gazette because of a longstanding grudge against the paper.

The FBI described the Aberdeen incident as an "active shooter situation" and said its Baltimore field office was assisting.

In a tweet, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said his office is monitoring the situation in Aberdeen and that the state stands ready to offer any support.

Susan Henderson, spokeswoman for the drugstore chain Rite Aid, said the shooting happened on the campus of a company distribution center in Aberdeen. She described it as a support facility adjacent to a larger building.

Harford County Executive Barry Glassman said that unfortunately, incidents like this are "becoming a too-often occurrence not only in Harford County but in the country."

Police seek motive in Wis. office shooting

Associated Press

MIDDLETON, Wis. — Authorities are trying to figure out why a software company employee opened fire inside his Wisconsin office, armed with a pistol and extra ammunition, and seriously wounded several of his colleagues before he was fatally shot by police.

Middleton Police Chief Chuck Foulke said the motive behind the Wednesday morning attack at WTS Paradigm wasn't immediately clear. The name of the suspect hasn't been released, but police said he worked at the company and lived in nearby Madison.

Police said three people were seriously wounded during the attack, while a fourth was grazed by a bullet. The person critically injured had been upgraded to serious condition by Thursday morning, while the two other victims remained hospitalized in serious condition at University Hospital, according to a spokeswoman.

Law enforcement searched a house in Madison late Wednesday.

day. Dane County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Elise Schaffer said the search was connected to the shooting, but she declined to say whether the house belonged to the gunman.

WTS Paradigm released a statement saying the company was "shocked and heartbroken," and working to set up counseling for workers. The company asked the media to respect the privacy of the workers, particularly the victims.

Officers were alerted to an active-shooter situation at the company 10:26 a.m. Wednesday. Officers arrived within minutes to find a heavily armed man. Investigators said the man fired at officers before he was shot. He later died at a Madison hospital.

Foulke said four officers fired their weapons within 8 minutes of getting the call, preventing more bloodshed.

"I think a lot less people were injured or killed because police officers went in and neutralized the shooter," Foulke said.



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen are reflected in the Korean War Memorial in Washington on Thursday.

Pence: Returned remains of war dead 'vanguard of what's to come'

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that he hoped the 55 cases of Korean War remains returned last month would be a "vanguard of what's to come," as officials hinted at future negotiations for on-the-ground searches in North Korea for more missing American servicemen.

"We look forward to further progress," Pence said during a ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. "I can assure you we will continue to work diligently to achieve peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and will never relent in our effort to bring our missing fallen home."

At the ceremony, Pence presented retired Col. Richard Dean with a flag that one month ago was draped over a casket of repatri-

ated remains from North Korea. On Aug. 1, the remains were delivered to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, where the flag-draped caskets were unloaded from C-17 aircraft.

Returning the 55 cases of remains of fallen troops was the result of an agreement reached during a June 12 summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump. More than 7,600 American servicemen remain missing from the war.

From the cases of remains, two American servicemen have already been identified, said Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, which is responsible for recovering America's war dead. The names were not disclosed as of Thursday afternoon.

McKeague said the United States hopes to begin face-to-face

negotiations in October about resuming on-the-ground searches in North Korea — an effort that has been stalled for more than a decade because of rising nuclear tensions.

The flag presented at the ceremony Thursday will be kept with the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, the organization responsible for maintaining the site on the National Mall.

"It brightens the hearts of 7,686 missing-in-action families that their loved ones could possibly be coming home in the very near future," said Dean, the organization's vice chairman. "It is truly remarkable the events that have taken place in the past six months. For those families, the odds are better than the lottery that they will be fortunate to have closure after 65 years."

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Pa. gunman found dead after manhunt

Associated Press

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP, Pa. — A Pennsylvania man who was apparently upset that his ex-wife had been awarded their home in their divorce was found dead early Thursday, several hours after he shot at her and later killed his own parents.

Bruce Rogal, 59, died after a manhunt and a police chase that ended when he crashed his car at the Glenmoore home he had shared with his wife, Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan said.

State police said at least one trooper shot at Rogal following the crash, but it's not clear if he returned fire. A gun was found in his car, authorities said, but a cause of death hasn't been determined.

No troopers were injured, authorities said.

Rogal had received an order finalizing the divorce on Wednesday and "that appears to be what set him off," Hogan said.

Rogal first went to the house where his ex-wife was staying, shot at her and missed. He then drove to a retirement center in East Goshen where he shot and killed his parents, William and Nancy Rogal, who were both in their late 80s.

Rogal then drove off, and police soon sent out an alert about the car he was driving.

State police spotted the vehicle driving past the agency's Embreville Barracks shortly before 1 a.m. Thursday, and a chase ensued that also involved SWAT team members.



PETE BANNEN, DAILY LOCAL NEWS/AP

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan speaks about the shooting at Bellingham Retirement Community on East Boot Road in East Goshen Township, Pa., on Wednesday.

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NATION

California district latest to revamp 'sexist' dress code

BY JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — The relaxed, new dress code at public schools in the small city of Alameda, across the bay from San Francisco, is intentionally specific: Midriff-baring shirts are acceptable attire; so are tank tops with spaghetti straps and other once-banned items like micro-mini skirts and short shorts.

As students settle into the new school term, gone are restrictions on ripped jeans and hoodies in class. If students want to come to school in pajamas, that's OK, too.

The new policy amounts to a sweeping reversal of the modern school dress code and makes Alameda the latest school district in the country to adopt a more permissive policy it says is less sexist.

Students who initiated the change said many of the old rules that barred too much skin disproportionately targeted girls, while language calling such attire "distracting" sent the wrong message.

"If someone is wearing a short skirt and you can see her stomach, it's not her fault that she's distracting other people," said Henry Mills, 14, an incoming freshman at Alameda High

School who worked with a committee of middle school students and teacher advisers to revise the policy. "There was language that mainly affected girls, and that wasn't OK."

Dress codes have long been the territory of contention and rebellion, but the reversal in Alameda shows a generational shift that students and teachers say was partly influenced by broader conversations on gender stemming from the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct and a national resurgence of student activism.

Approved by the school board on a trial basis during summer break, the new dress code is stirring back-to-school discussions about what role schools should have in socializing children.

There are voices sharply critical of the new dress code.

Math teacher Marie Hsu said she's all for equity but that the new rules send an unintentional message that it's fine, even appropriate, to "sex it up."

"It's good not to punish girls for being distractions. I fully, fully get that," said Hsu, who teaches at Lincoln Middle School and is an Alameda resident with two young children. "But I think it's extraordinarily misled."

Alameda mother Paula Walker

said she may be "old school," but she didn't mind the bans against revealing clothing.

"They say kids are starting everything younger, and I'm like, well, that's because you're throwing it in their faces," Walker said.

Dress codes and their severity vary widely nationwide. Twenty-four states have policies that give local school districts the power to adopt their own dress codes or uniform policies, according to the Education Commission of the States, a nonprofit that tracks education policy.

Some have statewide policies, like Arkansas, which passed a 2011 law requiring school districts "to prohibit the wearing of clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female."

A Texas high school recently was criticized for a back-to-school video on dress codes that featured only girls. The video shown at Marcus High School in a Dallas suburb showed girls in short shorts getting reprimanded as the song "Bad Girls" by M.I.A. played in the background. Students slammed it as sexist on social media, prompting the principal to apologize, saying the video "absolutely missed the mark."

Alameda's new dress code was modeled after a suggested policy



JEFF CHIU/AP

An Alameda High School student wearing a crop top and ripped jeans walks on the school's campus in Alameda, Calif., in August.

by the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women, drafted in 2016 to "update and improve" dress codes, to avoid rules that reinforce gender stereotypes and to minimize unnecessary discipline or "body shaming."

Portland, Ore.'s public school district adopted a new policy in 2016, followed by Evanston, Ill., in 2017, both of which incorporated NOW's suggestions.

Portland's relaxed dress code is considered a success, said Carol Campbell, principal at Grant High School.

Campbell said students wear appropriate clothing most of the time and it was "a huge relief" that staff now could focus on teaching, rather than necklines and hemlines.

"It's changed the culture of how students view each other," she said. "When we have rules and dress codes that particularly target one group, it sounds like

we're blaming that group, which always tended to be women."

Students in Alameda, Portland and Evanston have freedom to wear mostly anything as long as it includes a bottom, a top and shoes, covers private parts and does not contain violent images, hate speech, profanity or pornography.

Vague language in the old Alameda policy caused confusion, which led to arbitrary enforcement, students and teachers said. There was, for example, a "three-finger" rule on the width of tank top straps and a ban on shorts and skirts shorter than "mid-thigh" and a rule against "low-cut tank tops."

Girls with more developed bodies often were singled out for discipline ranging from lunch detention or picking up trash on campus to a phone call home or having to change into baggy clothing.

Bye-bye bugs? Scientists fear nonpest insects are declining

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

OXFORD, Pa. — A staple of summer — swarms of bugs — seems to be a thing of the past. And that's got scientists worried.

Pesky mosquitoes, disease-carrying ticks, crop-munching aphids and cockroaches are doing just fine. But the more beneficial flying insects of summer — native bees, moths, butterflies, ladybugs, lovebugs, mayflies and fireflies — appear to be less abundant.

Scientists think something is amiss, but they can't be certain. In the past, they didn't systematically count the populations of flying insects, so they can't make a proper comparison to today. Nevertheless, they're pretty sure across the globe there are fewer insects that are crucial to as much as 80 percent of what we eat.

Yes, some insects are pests. But they also pollinate plants and are a key link in the food chain and help decompose life.

"You have total ecosystem collapse if you lose your insects. How much worse can it get than that?" said University of Delaware entomologist Doug Tallamy. If it disappeared, "the world would start to rot."

He noted that to Vermont biologist E.O. Wilson once called bugs "the little things that run the world."

Wilson, 89, recalled that he once frolicked in a "Washington alive with insects, especially butterflies." Now, "the flying insects are virtually gone."



A Coccinellidae, more commonly known as a ladybug or ladybird beetle, rests on the petals of a rose in Portland, Ore., in May 2010.

The result: a single moth.

■ **Windshield test.** The unscientific experiment is called the windshield test. Wilson recommends everyday people do it themselves to see. Baby Boomers will probably notice the difference, Tallamy said.

Several scientists have conducted their own tests with windshields, car grilles and headlights, and most notice few squashed bugs. Researchers are quick to point out that such exercises aren't good scientific experiments because they don't include control groups or make comparisons with past results. (Today's cars also are more aerodynamic, so bugs are more likely to slip past them and live to buzz about it.)

Still, there are signs of decline. Research has shown dwindling individual species in specific places, including lightning bugs, moths and bumblebees. One study estimated a 14 percent decline in ladybugs in

the U.S. and Canada from 1987 to 2006. University of Florida urban entomologist Philip Koehler said he's seen a recent decrease in lovebugs — insects that fly connected and coated Florida's windshields in the 1970s and 1980s. This year, he said, "was kind of disappointing, I thought."

University of Nevada, Reno, researcher Lee Dwyer and his colleagues have been looking at insects at the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica since 1991. There's a big insect trap sheet under black light that catches what would be covered with bugs. Now, "there's no insects on that sheet," he said.

But there's not much research looking at all flying insects in big areas.

■ **The evidence.** Last year, a study found an 82 percent midsummer decline in the number and weight of bugs captured in traps in 63 nature preserves in Germany, compared with 27 years earlier. It was one of the few, if only, studies. Scientists say similar comparisons can't be done else, where because similar bug counts weren't done decades ago.

"We don't know how much we're losing if we don't know how much we have," said University of Hawaii entomologist Helen Spafford.

The lack of older data makes it "unclear to what degree we're experiencing an arthropocalypse," said University of Illinois entomologist May Benrebenbaum. Individual studies aren't convincing in themselves, "but the sheer accumulated weight of evidence seems to be shifting" to show a problem.

After the German study, countries start-

ed asking if they have similar problems, said ecologist Toke Thomas Hoye, of Aarhus University in Denmark. He studied flies in a few spots in remote Greenland and noticed an 80 percent drop in numbers since 1996.

"It's clearly not a German thing," said University of Connecticut entomologist David Wagner, who has chronicled declines in moth populations in the northeastern U.S. "We just need to find out how widespread the phenomenon is."

■ **The suspects.** Most scientists say lots of factors, not just one, caused the apparent decline in flying insects.

Suspects include habitat loss, insecticide use, the killing of native weeds, single-crop agriculture, invasive species, light pollution, highway traffic and climate change.

"It's death by a thousand cuts, and that's really bad news," Wagner said.

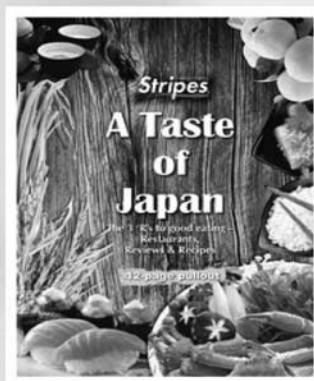
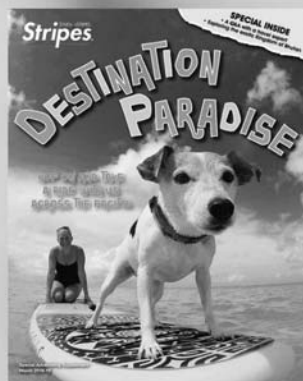
To Tallamy, two causes stand out: human war on weeds and vast farmland planted with the same few crops.

Weeds and native plants are what bugs eat and where they live, Tallamy said. Milkweeds, crucial to the beautiful monarch butterfly, are dwindling fast. Manicured lawns in the U.S. are so prevalent that, added together, they are as big as New England, he said.

Those landscapes are "essentially dead zones," he said.

Light pollution is another big problem for species such as moths and fireflies, bug experts said. Insects are attracted to brightness, where they become easy prey and expend the energy they should be using to get food, Tallamy said.

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WORLD

Doctor gets life term over yoga ball killings

HONG KONG — An anesthesiologist convicted of killing his wife and daughter by placing a yoga ball that leaked carbon monoxide in their car has been sentenced to life in prison in Hong Kong.

Malaysian citizen Khaw Kim Sun, 53, had become estranged from his wife, Wong Siew Fing, 47, and their four children, although they continued to live together while he had an affair with a student.

A jury of five men and four women found him guilty at Hong Kong's High Court after seven hours of deliberation Wednesday.

"It is shocking that a highly educated and successful man would conjure up such a calculated method to get rid of his wife," judge Judithanna Barnes Wai-jing was quoted in media as telling Khaw.

Khaw was accused of putting the gas-filled yoga ball in the trunk of a Mini Cooper driven by his wife, Wong Siew-fung, on May 22, 2015.

India bans instant divorce by Muslim men

NEW DELHI — India's government on Wednesday approved an ordinance to implement a top court ruling striking down the Muslim practice that allows men to instantly divorce.

The government decision came after it failed to get approval of Parliament a year after the court ruled that the practice of triple "talaq" violated the constitutional rights of Muslim women.

Most of the 170 million Muslims in India are Sunnis governed by the Muslim Personal Law for family matters and disputes. The laws include allowing men to divorce by simply uttering the Arabic word "talaq," or divorce, three times — and not necessarily consecutively, but at any time, and by any medium, including telephone, text message or social media post.

Japan digital currency exchange hacked

TOKYO — Hackers have stolen \$60 million worth of cryptocurrencies from a Japanese digital currency exchange, the operators said Thursday.

Tech Bureau Corp. said a server for its Zeif exchange was hacked for two hours last week, and some digital currencies got unlawfully relayed from what's called a "hot wallet" where virtual coins are stored at such exchanges.

The exchange was taken offline until details of the damage could be confirmed, and efforts were underway to get it back working, Tech Bureau said.

Japan has been bullish on virtual money and has set up a system requiring exchanges to be licensed to help protect consumers. The system is also meant to make Japan a global leader in the technology. Bitcoin has been a legal form of payment in Japan since April 2017, and a handful of major retailers here already accept bitcoin payments.

From The Associated Press



Rescuers assist a victim after a landslide struck a village in Naga city, Cebu province, in central Philippines on Thursday.

Deadly landslide buries homes in Philippines

Associated Press

NAGA, Philippines — A massive landslide buried dozens of homes near a central Philippine mountain Thursday, killing at least 15 people and sending rescuers scrambling to find survivors after some sent text messages pleading for help.

The slide surged down about 30 houses in two rural villages after daylight in Naga city in Cebu's province of Negros Oriental, the city police chief, told The Associated Press by telephone as he helped supervise the search and rescue.

Seven injured villagers were rescued from the huge mound of earth and debris.

Some victims still managed to send text messages after the landslide hit, Gonzales said, adding that elderly women and a child were among the dead.

Naga city Mayor Kristine Vanessa Chiong said by telephone that at least 64 people remained missing.

The landslide hit while several northern Philippine provinces were still dealing with deaths and widespread damage wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut, which pummeled the agricultural region Saturday and left at least 88 people dead and more than 60 missing.

A massive search was still underway for dozens of people feared dead after landslides in the gold-mining town of Itogon in the north.

Cebu province was not directly hit by Mangkhut, but the massive typhoon helped intensify monsoon rains across a large part of the archipelago, including the central region, where Naga city lies about 355 miles southwest of Manila. Rescuers there were treading carefully in small groups on the unstable ground to avoid further casualties.

"We're running out of time," Naga city Councilor Carmelino Cruz said by phone. "The ground in the area is still vibrating. We're striking a balance between intensifying our rescue efforts and ensuring the safety of our rescuers."

Cristita Villarba, a 53-year-old resident, told the AP by phone that her husband and son were preparing to leave for work when

the ground shook and they were overwhelmed by a roar.

"It was like an earthquake and there was this thundering, loud banging sound. All of us ran out," Villarba said, adding that she, her husband and three children were shocked but unhurt.

Outside, she saw the house of her elderly brother, Lauro, and his family was buried in the landslide.

"Many of our neighbors were crying and screaming for help," she said. "Some wanted to help those who got hit but there was too much earth covering the houses, including my brother's."

It's not clear what set off the landslide.

Abe re-elected ruling party head

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a landslide Thursday, paving the way for up to three more years as the nation's leader.

The decisive victory may embolden Abe to pursue his long-sought revision to Japan's U.S.-drafted pacifist constitution, although the hurdles remain high and doing so would carry political risks.

"It's time to tackle a constitutional revision," Abe said in a victory speech. "Now the fight is over."

Abe said he's determined to use his last term to pursue his policy goals to "sum up" Japan's post-war diplomacy to ensure peace in the country. "Let's work together to make a new Japan," he said.

Abe, who has been prime minister since December 2012, has cemented control of his party and received support from conservatives for bringing stability and continuity to economic and diplomatic policies. With a third term as party leader, Abe is poised to become Japan's longest-serving leader in August 2021.

Still, he faces several challenges, including dealing with Japan's aging and declining population, a



Abe

royal succession in the spring, and a consumption tax increase to 10 percent he has already delayed twice. He faces security concerns stemming

from North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, and China's increasingly assertive activity in the region, as well as intensifying trade friction with the U.S. which could shake his friendly relations with President Donald Trump.

Abe has said he is determined to push for a revision to the U.S.-drafted 1947 constitution, a decades-old pledge of the Liberal Democratic Party since its foundation in 1955 and a goal that none of Abe's predecessors has been able to achieve.

Abe has said he hopes his party could submit a draft constitution revision to a parliamentary session later this year ahead of a national referendum. Abe is proposing to add a clause to Article 9, which bans the use of force in settling international disputes, to explicitly permit the existence of Japan's military, now called the Self-Defense Force.

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STARS AND STRIPES
KOREAN WAR: THE BATTLE OF INCHEON (OPERATION CHROMITE)

The Incheon Landing Operation CHROMITE
General of the Army Douglas MacArthur planned amphibious assault behind North Korean lines at Incheon, close to Seoul and North Korean Army. Surprises. Planning for the Incheon invasion, codenamed Operation CHROMITE, began August 1950, and lasted well over a month. Operation CHROMITE was arguably one of the most successful amphibious operations in military history.

KEY EVENTS

Map Facts

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man rubbed fruit on butt, put it back

VA MANASSAS — A man was accused of rubbing his bare behind with produce at a grocery store in northern Virginia before putting the items back on display.

News outlets reported Michael Dwayne Johnson, 27, of Manassas was charged with indecent exposure and destruction of property.

A Manassas police release said an employee noticed Johnson grabbing produce, pulling down his pants and rubbing the produce on his behind before putting it back.

It said the store had to destroy several pallets of produce because of Johnson's actions. A police spokeswoman said the report lists fruit as the ruined produce.

Lobsters get pot, then the cooking pot

ME SOUTHWEST HARBOR — A Maine lobster pound is banking on using marijuana to try to make cooking the crustaceans a little more humane.

The business, Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor, is owned by a registered medical marijuana caregiver.

The owner, Charlotte Gill, told WMTW-TV she put a lobster in a box with a few inches of water before marijuana smoke was blown into the box. She said the animal was calmer for the next three weeks, and she released it into the ocean.

Gill plans to use the new method at customers' requests and then build a larger tank to sedate multiple lobsters at once.

University offers degree in beer, wine making

OH SYLVANIA — An Ohio university will soon offer an undergraduate degree in beer and wine making.

Lourdes University recently announced it will start the program in August 2019.

The degree program will feature courses in fermentation, chemistry, nutrition and accounting. Students will be required to complete three internships, including one through an Irish study abroad program.

Lourdes University has partnered with multiple local breweries to support the program. The school will also work with vineyards in California and distilleries in Galway, Ireland.

Mountain lion visits motel, doesn't stay long

CO BOULDER — A mountain lion was caught on surveillance camera dashing to the doors of a Colorado motel office, venturing toward the open doorway and then wandering away.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesman Jason Clay said nobody was hurt in the Sept. 9 encounter.

The Boulder Daily Camera reported the lion approached the front of the Mountain Motel on Boulder's west side. Just after

THE CENSUS

\$1.5M

The worth of a 50-foot, custom-build yacht that is likely a total loss after it was struck by a barge laden with sand and gravel in a Connecticut harbor. Capt. Eric Knott, Stamford's harbor master, told the Stamford Advocate a tug boat was delivering two barges to a construction materials company when one drifted away. The barge hit the Sea Jay, a year-old catamaran built in South Africa. Knott said the barge broke off the back of one hull and severely damaged the back of the other. There also was structural damage.



TIM MONZINGO, THE (NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS) DAILY SENTINEL/AP

Lending a hand

Young volunteers help push the newest firetruck into Nacogdoches Fire and Rescue's downtown station in Nacogdoches, Texas, on Tuesday.

entering the camera's view, the lion pounces, if startled. Clay said that was when the lion spotted motel guests with a dog on a leash.

Clay said the guests and their dog returned to their room and there was no trouble.

Bear escapes van, grabs muffin mix from kitchen

NC ASHEVILLE — Winnie the Pooh has honey, Goldilocks' three ursine victims had porridge and a casually destructive North Carolina black bear has muffin mix.

Nicole Minkin Lissenden told The Asheville Citizen-Times she saw her minivan door had come ajar, with trash spilling out, Sunday so she closed it. Tipped off by fogged-up windows and paw prints, she would learn 30 minutes later that she had unwittingly trapped a decent-sized black bear inside.

Having clawed up the interiors, the bear eventually slid out a window. Shortly thereafter, Karen Brown found paw prints and open drawers in her nearby kitchen. She said the bear bypassed fresh

pumpkin bread and chili to grab the muffin mix. He left the premises after some human hollering.

Teen accused of driving drunk with baby in car

WI MOUNT PLEASANT — Police in southeastern Wisconsin said a 15-year-old boy was accused of driving drunk with a baby in the back seat.

Mount Pleasant police said the baby's mother and another teen in the car were also intoxicated. Sgt. Eric Relich said someone saw the driver swerving and driving into oncoming traffic.

The car stopped near a gas station, and responding officers said they found the 15-year-old behind the wheel. WITI-TV reported Relich said the 19-year-old mother of the 5-month-old baby was so intoxicated she couldn't stand straight.

Woman breaks security, drives on runways

NJ TETERBORO — Authorities said a woman

breached security at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey and drove her car across two runways.

Port Authority police said the 32-year-old woman followed an authorized vehicle through an open gate Tuesday morning, drove across the runways and then stopped and fled on foot.

Police tracked her down to a home in Moonachie and took her into custody. The woman's name has not been released.

Authorities said there were no planes on the runway at the time.

Charges against the woman are pending.

Cops: Man used leash to keep wife safe

PA YORK — A Maryland man who said he used a dog leash to lead his wife around a Pennsylvania fair because she has late-stage dementia and has previously wandered away is facing a simple assault charge.

West Manchester police said Walter Wolford, 66, yanked the 8-inch long red nylon leash, causing his wife's head to jerk back and leave red marks around her

throat. The Hagerstown man said he only gently tugged on the leash, which he uses to keep his wife from getting lost.

Wolford said he attached the leash to his wife's waist, but it somehow moved up around her neck.

Video shows man too close to geyser

MT BILLINGS — A man accused of walking dangerously close to Old Faithful Geyser may also have broken the rules by sitting next to a different thermal feature in Yellowstone National Park.

Video taken by Kelly Kosciuk, of Savannah, Ga., and shared by ABC FOX Montana, appears to show the same man taking a shoe off next to Beryl Spring, one of Yellowstone's hottest springs.

The incident happened Sept. 14, the same day that Gabriel Villalva, of Greeley, Colo., allegedly wandered close to Old Faithful.

Villalva faces charges including leaving boardwalks in a thermal area and disorderly conduct.

From wire reports

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Report: Nearly half of cell calls to be scams by '19

By HAMZA SHABAN
The Washington Post

Nearly half of all cellphone calls next year will come from scammers, according to First Orion, a company that provides phone carriers and their customers caller ID and call-blocking technology.

The Arkansas-based firm projects an explosion of incoming spam calls, marking a massive leap from 3.7 percent of total calls in 2017 to more than 29 percent this year, to a projected 45 percent by early 2019.

"Year after year, the scam call epidemic bombards consumers at record-breaking levels, surpassing the previous year and scammers increasingly invade our privacy at new extremes," Charles Morgan, the chief ex-

ecutive and head data scientist of First Orion, said in a blog post last week.

The barrage of fraudulent calls has taken a more dire turn in recent months as scammers have targeted immigrant communities with urgent calls claiming ambiguous legal trouble. Across several U.S. metropolitan areas with large Chinese populations, scam callers have posed as representatives of the Chinese Embassy while trying to trick Chinese immigrants and students into revealing their credit card numbers. The scammers told people that they have a package ready to be picked at the Chinese consulate office, a first step in a ruse, or that they need to turn over information to resolve a legal issue, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Other prominent spam calls involve a fraudster pretending to be a representative from a bank, debt collector or cable company.

The Internal Revenue Service also has warned taxpayers about phone scams. Callers use telephone numbers that mimic actual IRS assistance centers, claim to be IRS employees and use fake names and phony badge numbers. The IRS says that victims are falsely told they owe money to the government and are urged to pay up through gift cards or wire transfers.

Scammers also might take advantage of the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence, the IRS warned. Scammers can pose as a charitable organization, preying on the generosity of Americans who wish to help storm victims.

Scammers also trick people

into answering their calls with a scheme known as neighborhood spoofing, in which they manipulate caller ID information so that their actual phone number is masked. Instead, the calls appear to have been placed locally. A person looking at their caller ID will see a number that matches their own area code, as if the caller is a neighbor or a relative. Because the number appears familiar, people are more likely to answer the call.

More than half of all complaints received by the Federal Communications Commission — more than 200,000 of them — are about unwanted calls. The FCC said Americans received about 2.4 billion unwanted, automated calls every month, according to 2016 estimates.

Certain apps can block calls

from known scammers, but First Orion noted that the tools can be ineffective if fraudulent callers use numbers that aren't already blacklisted.

To combat robocalls and caller ID spoofing, the FCC has allowed phone carriers to block calls that may be illegal and has taken action against scammers, issuing hundreds of millions of dollars in fines. Earlier this year, the FCC issued a \$120 million fine against a Florida man who made nearly 100 million robocalls offering people exclusive vacation deals.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (Sept. 21)	\$1.2067
Dollar buys (Sept. 21)	69.8287
British pound (Sept. 21)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (Sept. 21)	110.26
South Korean won (Sept. 21)	1,091.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.3278/0.7531
Canada (Dollar)	1.2897
China (Yuan)	6.8428
Denmark (Krone)	6.3440
Egypt (Pound)	17.9962
Euro	\$1.1758/0.8505
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8408
Hungary (Forint)	275.29
Israel (Shekel)	3.5762
Japan (Yen)	112.17
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3026
Norway (Krone)	3.1666
Philippines (Peso)	54.00
Poland (Zloty)	3.66
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7497
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3657
South Korea (Won)	1,117.53
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9607
Thailand (Baht)	22.36
Turkey (Lira)	6.2875

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany, checking your local military banking facility, Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	2.32
3-month bill	2.10
30-year bond	3.23

Aston Martin valued at \$6.7 billion in IPO pricing

Associated Press

LONDON — Aston Martin Lagonda, the maker of James Bond's favorite sports car, plans to raise as much as 1.27 billion pounds (\$1.67 billion) when it sells shares

to investors for the first time.

The luxury carmaker said it will sell a 25 percent stake for between 17.50 pounds and 22.50 pounds per share, valuing the company at as much as 5.07 billion pounds (\$6.7 billion). Aston

Martin said Thursday the exact price would be set about Oct. 3.

The company said Daimler will remain a shareholder and won't reduce its 4.9 percent stake for 12 months.

Aston Martin CEO Andy

Palmer said the share sale "will provide investors with a fitting opportunity to participate in our future success."

The carmaker was founded in London in 1913 and is headquartered in Gaydon.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.130	\$3.483	\$3.724	\$3.557
Change in price	+0.8 cents	+1.0 cents	+0.9 cents	+1.0 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.817	\$3.953	\$3.930
Change in price	--	+2.3 cents	+2.3 cents	+0.3 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.428	\$3.669	\$3.502
Change in price	--	+1.0 cents	+0.9 cents	+1.0 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.667	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.9 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.191	\$3.479	\$3.390
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$3.545	\$3.378*
Change in price	--	--	+0.9 cents	+1.0 cents
Italy	\$4.127	--	--	\$4.202
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.469	--	\$3.299
Change in price	--	+1.0 cents	--	+1.0 cents
Okunawa	\$2.879	--	--	\$3.299
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	--	+1.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.909	--	\$3.499	\$3.339
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	no change	+1.0 cents
Guam	\$2.909**	\$3.259	\$3.499	--
Change in price	+1.0 cents	+1.0 cents	+1.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Sept. 22-28

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 19, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	158.80
	26,405.76
Nasdaq composite	-6.07
	7,950.04
Standard & Poor's 500	3.64
	2,907.95
Russell 2000	-8.04
	1,702.93

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND



'Shadow of the Tomb Raider'
Video games, Page 26

TAKES

An artistic achievement

On Carrie Underwood's new album, 'Cry Pretty'

Page 36

A clunky confessional

A look at the big picture

Page 24

On the new film by 'This Is Us' creator Dan Fogelman

A grand failure

Page 25

Bacon fest in Japan

Page 32

On a good place to grab a bite to eat

Health food in Germany

Page 29

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



ANDA CHU, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

Sony's aibo, an autonomous robotic, dog picks up his toy bone during a demonstration Sept. 11 in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Teachable robot dog coming to US by the end of the year

By LEVI SUMAGAYSAY
The Mercury News

Aibo, a \$2,899 robotic dog from Sony, just might scamper its way onto some wish lists this holiday season.

Hoping to replicate the dog's popularity in Japan — where the electronic pets have a rabid following — Sony is unleashing a limited-edition litter of aibo robotic dogs in the United States by the end of the year.

The aibo has OLEDs for eyes — like those used in Sony's television displays — a camera in its nose and on its back, plus sensors on its back, head and chin that allow it to feel you petting it. It also has microphones, actuators and other technology that when combined with artificial intelligence allow the robotic companion to learn its owner's behavior and react accordingly.

Aibo owners will need patience. It was sometimes slow to respond and didn't sit when I asked it to, somewhat like my real dog at home. But it also danced when I asked it to, unlike my real dog, Sherman, whose only care in the world is playing with a ball.

"AI makes the decision," said Angel Vizcarra, senior marketing specialist for Sony and aibo's favorite person in the newsroom conference room, where the demo

took place this week. "He may say no" to some of the many commands its owner issues, Vizcarra said. For now, the dog can handle about 30 commands, including "sing," "high five" and "bang bang" — after which it rolls over and plays dead.

Some of the commands are customizable. For example, Vizcarra asked aibo to "learn," then grabbed its paws and moved them back and forth a few times. Having learned the pattern, the dog then repeated the same motions. Sony has sold 20,000 of the robotic dogs in Japan but isn't saying how many will be available in the United States this year. The company is asking those interested to sign up on its website now to be alerted when pre-orders start later this month. Delivery is expected by the holidays.

For the hefty price tag, owners of the pup get the aibo — powered by a Qualcomm chip — that becomes one of a kind as you interact with it, plus an accessory bundle that includes a ball, a bone, paw pads and a dog tag. The aibo can "play" for about three hours before it can sense it needs to go to its bed, a.k.a. its battery charger, which is also included.

Each dog also comes with a three-year AI Cloud Plan, with AT&T providing the internet connection. The dog has to be connected to the cloud.

GADGET WATCH

Fans are in the hot seat with portable warmer

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Surviving the cold at football games and other events will be a lot more comfortable and luxurious with the new Hot Seat from Pro Design.

The Kickstarter campaign is underway for what Pro Design calls the world's first heated stadium chair. With USB-powered ThermoGridz technology, your bottom will stay warm and cozy. According to Pro Design, ThermoGridz uses low-voltage USB-powered heating in a grid pattern of single core wire wrapped around glass fiber and coated in silicone, which produces Far Infrared Ray heat.

With your portable USB battery (not included), you'll stay warm for about 75 minutes with a 2500mAh battery, or up to 7 hours with a 15,000mAh battery.

There are three temperature controls (high — 115°F, medium — 110°F and low — 100°F) and 600D fabric covers the chair to avoid hot spots.

SoftTushion foam is built into the seat's armrests and adjustable back for long-term comfort even without the heat. The welded steel-frame chair is 16 inches wide, but you can drop down the armrests for a larger 20.5-inch wide seat. An adjustable back is 16 inches high, and you get 16 inches of depth in the seat.

Other features include hidden pockets, which unfold from the armrests for items including smartphones or keys. There's a larger 15-by-4-inch pocket on the back.

One of the hidden zipper pockets on the front of the left armrest also acts as a cup holder, and the bottom of the chair is anti-slip and water-proof. After the game, it folds flat and has adjustable backpack straps.

Pricing on the campaign, which ends Sept. 26, starts with early-bird specials of \$79.99.

Online: popdesignproducts.com; see the Kickstarter page at tinyurl.com/y9c2efx7.

Roccat's new Vulcan keyboard is ideal for gaming, daily use or just looking flat-out cool. I've had discussions with friends or coworkers who think a keyboard is a keyboard until I let them try a different one. The same is the case with the Vulcan; try it and you'll see.

Its performance is as impressive as its appearance. I'll admit, I'm not a gamer, never have been and never will be. But with the amount of computer work I do, I'm able to give any keyboard a workout, and the Vulcan shined.

I let a gamer friend give it a few hours of use and he reported that the comfort and response time of the Vulcan is outstanding, and the customization is crazy good. He also mentioned that he's not giving the Vulcan back.

The Vulcan has dedicated media keys, which I know gamers will love, along with Roccat's in-house-developed Titan Switches. These were specifically designed for gamers craving a keystroke that was swift and precise while still being tactile, with an instant response and comfort.

The very cool, futuristic-looking keyboard is built with Roccat's Aimo RGB lighting system with long-life LEDs producing beautiful lighting for each of the keyboard's dust-resistant, low-profile switches (keys), which are also spill-proof.

The transparent keys and aluminum backing produce an amazing visual effect, which you can customize on a per-key basis.

Three versions are available: the Vulcan 80 (\$129.99) with black anodized aluminum, single blue illumination and two media keys; the Vulcan 100 (\$149.99), which has gray anodized aluminum, RGB AIMO illumination and professional grade media controls; and the Vulcan 120 (\$159.99), with gray anodized aluminum plating, RGB AIMO lighting, professional-grade controls and a magnetic, detachable wrist rest.

Online: roccat.org



PRO DESIGN ONE/TNS

The new Hot Seat from Pro Design uses low-voltage USB-powered heating to keep your seat warm. It also includes a hidden zipper pocket, right, that acts as a cup holder.

ON THE COVER: Country singer Carrie Underwood co-wrote nine of the 13 tracks on her sixth and latest studio album, "Cry Pretty."

CAPITOL RECORDS NASHVILLE/AP

ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes for the week ending Sept. 14:

1. "Natural," Imagine Dragons
2. "Youngblood," 5 Seconds of Summer
3. "On My Way to You," Cody Johnson
4. "Simple," Florida Georgia Line
5. "Mercy," Brett Young
6. "In My Feelings," Drake
7. "You Say," Lauren Daigle
8. "Whatever It Takes," Imagine Dragons
9. "Weekend," Kanye Brown
10. "Love Lies," Khalid & Normani

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify for the week ending Sept. 18:

1. "I Love It" (& Lil Pump), Kanye West
2. "Lucky You" (feat. Joyner Lucas), Eminem
3. "Eastside" (with Halsey and Khalid), Benny Blanco
4. "In My Feelings," Drake
5. "Promises" (with Sam Smith), Calvin Harris
6. "In My Mind," Dyrnora
7. "Happier," Marshmello
8. "Girls Like You" (feat. Cardi B), Maroon 5
9. "SICKO MODE," Travis Scott
10. "Lucid Dreams," Juice WRLD

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending Sept. 16:

1. "Solo: A Star Wars Story"
2. "Ocean's 8"
3. "Gotti"
4. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"
5. "The Endless"
6. "Tag"
7. "Deadpool 2"
8. "Adrift"
9. "Avengers: Infinity War"
10. "Book Club"



— Compiled by AP

BOOKS

The top 10 books on Apple's iBook charts for week ending Sept. 16:

1. "Fear," Bob Woodward
2. "Girl, Wash Your Face," Rachel Hollis
3. "A Simple Favor," Darcey Baez
4. "Juror #3," James Patterson and Nancy Allen
5. "Crazy Rich Asians," Kevin Kwan
6. "Leverage in Death," J. D. Robb
7. "Hardcore Twenty-Four," Janet Evanovich
8. "Where the Crawdads Sing," Delia Owens
9. "Tilapia," Sandra Brown
10. "China Rich Girlfriend," Kevin Kwan

— Compiled by AP

APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending Sept. 16:

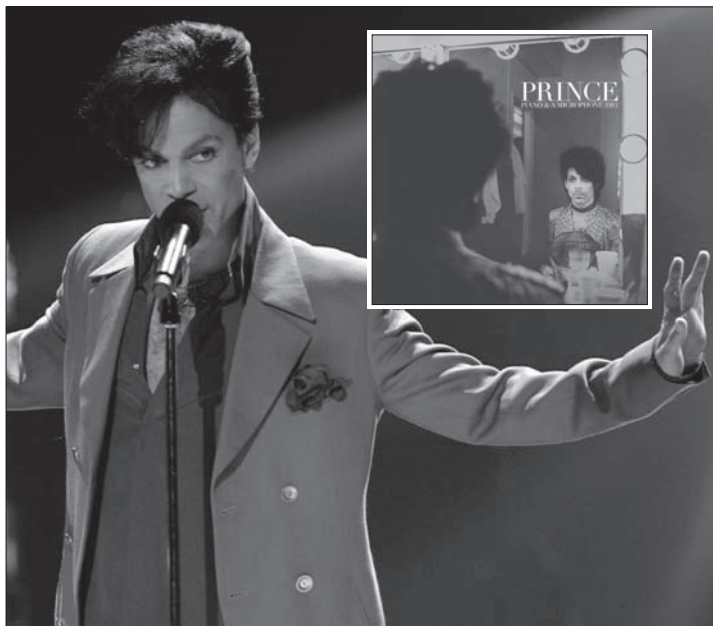
1. Minecraft
2. Heads Up!
3. Plague Inc.
4. Facetime
5. Schedule
6. Bloons TD 6
7. Earth Impact
8. Hurricane Tracker
9. Geomancer Dash
10. Dark Sky Weather

— Compiled by AP

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Prince, shown in 2006, died in 2016, but he's got a new album coming out. "Piano & A Microphone 1983" is just a tape of the superstar singing and playing piano in his home studio in Minnesota.

AP

1

Purple reign continues with new Prince album

Prince is gone, but his music lives on. And not just the large catalog of classic stuff you already know — a recent discovery is paving the way for new Prince tunes.

"Piano & A Microphone 1983" is from a 35-year-old cassette Prince recorded of himself playing piano and singing at his home studio in Chanhassen, Minn.

The tape, now for sale, sounds clean and is presented start to finish as Prince recorded it. Among the songs are "17 Days," "Purple Rain," Joni Mitchell's "A Case of You," "International Lover" and "Strange Relationship."

A highlight is Prince's singing of the spiritual "Mary Don't You Weep," which plays over the end credits of Spike Lee's movie "BlackKkKlansman."

Album archivist Michael Howe loved the heavily bootlegged tape and found it in Prince's vault. Howe says you can hear Prince, who died in 2016, "strapping the rocket engine on that would propel him to superstardom."

— Jeff Baenen/AP

• More information at tinyurl.com/y92mnae.

2

It's time for fall's usual fresh TV show bonanza

As temperatures cool and leaves begin to fall, TV producers scatter fresh episodes to the waiting masses. More than 30 new and returning shows will launch their seasons in the coming week. Among the new shows coming to AFN: "NOVA Wonders," "Rel," "Magnum P.I.," "FBI" and "New Amsterdam." Returning favorites include "The Deuce," "The Good Doctor," "The Big Bang Theory," "Bull," "Lethal Weapon," "This Is Us," several "NCIS'es and Chicago "Med," "Fire" and "PD."

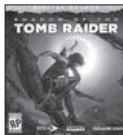
• All AFN shows at tinyurl.com/psynz28.

3

More for Croft to explore in new "Tomb Raider"

Lara Croft's look has been altered recently on screen and in video games — she now looks like an actual human female, not a sweaty fantasy. Fortunately, the girl can still fight. In "Shadow of the Tomb Raider," Croft is after more treasure, and there are plenty of puzzle boxes, combat and lovely scenery along the way.

• Game review on Page 26.



4

Che rewards overlooked actors in Emmys video

Monday night's Emmys, hosted by Colin Hanks and Michael Che of "Saturday Night Live," was not a success by word-of-mouth or ratings standards. But, like any major awards show, it had its moments. One of the best was a video in which Che tracked down black sitcom stars of the past, such as Marla Gibbs, Kadeem Hardison, Jaleel White and John Witherspoon, to give what Che called Reparation Emmys. "I stole it from Cosby," Che told one actor. Oh yeah. He went there.

• Watch the video at tinyurl.com/y98t8tss.

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Invision/AP

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

As in his TV series “This Is Us,” jubilant and catastrophic events tend to cluster for Dan Fogelman. Days before his latest and most ambitious movie, “Life Itself,” opens in theaters, and the third season of his hit NBC show premieres, Fogelman’s house was robbed. The thieves returned later the same evening, smashing through a plate-glass door. Fogelman says he had to chase them away.

“There’s been a lot of life — really intense life — happening in the last 24 hours,” Fogelman said in a recent telephone interview. “There’s a movie in there somewhere, I’m sure.”

In Fogelman’s world, on screen and off, every dramatic low has its silver linings. In “Life Itself,” which Amazon Studios will release Sept. 21, the story spirals out, across generations, from a fatal accident on a New York street. Like the tear-inducing “This Is Us,” it’s a glossy, cross-generational tale of destiny and chance encounters with an A-list cast. Its starry ensemble includes Oscar Isaac, Olivia Wilde, Antonio Banderas and Mandy Patinkin.

“Life Itself” is Fogelman’s second feature as writer-director following 2015’s “Danny Collins.” (He also penned 2011’s “Crazy, Stupid, Love” and co-wrote Disney’s “Tangled.”) The film will test whether the 39-year-old writer can find the same response on the big screen as he has on the highly rated “This Is Us.” (The season two premiere drew more than 10 million viewers; season three begins Sept. 26 on AFN-Pulse.) Critics haven’t been kind to the boldly titled “Life Itself.” (The New York Times called it “utter balderdash.”) But, then again, every down has its up for Fogelman.

An earnest effort

Dan Fogelman’s latest, ‘Life Itself,’ weaves intergenerational storylines of love, tragedy

Associated Press: What for you is the appeal of looking at love through the prism of family and multiple generations?

Fogelman: Whether it’s “Crazy, Stupid, Love” or “This Is Us” or this film, you have multiple stories and characters kind of ping-pong off of each other. It’s definitely something I enjoy doing. But I’ve never really thought of it that way. I was never really interested in setting out to write a mob movie, even though I love mob movies, or a horror movie, even though I love horror movies. For me, the kind of stuff that turns me on is really about people and often about families.

Some of the comfort viewers seem to get from “This Is Us” is that it suggests everyone’s life is part of a bigger picture.

My mother passed away 10 years ago and it was the kind of body blow of my life, the kind that I wondered if I could get up from. It was very complicated; she died very unexpectedly and very suddenly. And a year after that, almost to the day, I met the woman who would become my wife. My life is now constantly filled with these beautiful, important moments that a key figure in my life is no longer here to share. That feels giant in my basically normal life. But when you expand that and think about the people that came together to bring my mother into life and to lead to me, and the people that came together to bring my wife into the world to lead to her, I

think the most ordinary lives become really big and cinematic.

That’s not the most common view in wide-release movies these days.

To me, a scene like in “Kramer vs. Kramer,” where the little boy is testing Dustin Hoffman about eating the ice cream, holds the same type of intensity and sit-in-the-movie-theater-eating-popcorn appeal as the biggest action sequence in an action movie.

“This Is Us” is the kind of network hit that few believed was even possible anymore. Do you feel pressure to keep the ratings up?

I don’t feel pressure anymore. Everyone that works on the show — because it goes far beyond me, obviously — is just really good at their jobs. The actors are very good at acting. The writers are very good at writing. It’s clear that everybody is still turned on to it three seasons in. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime thing that doesn’t happen a lot. It certainly hardly happens in television and certainly hardly ever happens in network television anymore. Everyone’s aware of it.

Have you ever researched your own genealogy?

Strangely, I’ve never been that interested in knowing my family history. My father is fascinated by it constantly. All he ever wants to do is take a family trip to Siberia or Russia or wherever my great ancestors were from, and the poor guy can’t get any traction from anyone in my family to go to it.



Amazon Pictures/AP

Directed by “This Is Us” creator Dan Fogelman, top, “Life Itself” centers on a couple (Oscar Isaac and Olivia Wilde, above) who lead a multigenerational love story spanning both decades and continents, from the streets of New York to the Spanish countryside, and are all connected by a single event.

WEEKEND: MOVIES



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

A young orphan's (Owen Vaccaro, left) new home has a clock that could destroy the world in "The House with a Clock in Its Walls," co-starring Jack Black and Cate Blanchett.

'The House with a Clock in Its Walls'

Haunted house mystery mostly a waste of time

By MARK KENNEY
Associated Press

The 10-year-old hero at the center of the film "The House with a Clock in Its Walls" likes to look up words in the dictionary, like "foreboding" and "indomitable." He might want to be familiar with the term "exorable" — that's a good one for this movie.

Adapted from the 1973 John Bellairs young adult supernatural thriller, the film somehow manages its own witchcraft in finding the perfect un-sweet spot — it's too scary for little kids, not scary enough for older ones, not funny or clever enough for their parents, and too redundant for everyone. Poof! Watch the audience disappear.

Horror specialist director Eli Roth has stumbled badly as he enters the dangerous realm of whimsical, which is added here at such high doses as to be lethal. The film is ostensibly a Harry Potter-lite coming of age yarn, but the real spooky thing is why Cate Blanchett and Jack Black decided to tag along.

The story — by Eric Kripke, creator of TV's "Supernatural" — centers on a recently orphaned 10-year-old boy named Lewis in 1955. He moves to a Michigan town to live with his mysterious, chocolate-loving uncle, played by Black, who turns out to be a warlock. The next-door neighbor, Florence Zimmermann, is an elegant, purple-loving witch played by Blanchett.

"You'll see. Things are quite different here," Black's character says to the astonished boy. But he's lying — things are very familiar here: foggy graveyards, creepy dolls, dusty books, animal skeletons in small carved boxes, ornately carved book jackets, secret rooms behind bookcases, thumping in the walls and even comedic non-human sidekicks (this time an armchair and a topiary griffin).

There's been an obvious attempt to ape the chilly menace of Edward Gorey, who supplied images for Bellairs' book, but this movie really just leans on props and suggestive music, never

finding a consistent tone or vision. Sometimes it feels like a Wes Anderson film, at others it goes more like Wes Craven.

Young Lewis, upright, precocious — and outfitted in the laziest way to show that, with a pair of WWI-era aviator goggles and a bow tie — must learn to be a warlock himself, fit in at school, solve the mystery of the hidden clock and save the universe. Child actor Owen Vaccaro does admirably here. It's the adults who have let him down.

Foremost among them are Black and Blanchett, who are in different movies — he's in a comic farce complete with butt jokes and vomiting pumpkins, and she's doing some very serious English drawing-room drama. "It's the nuts that make things interesting," she says at one point. "I've found that all one really needs in this world is one good friend," she tells Lewis primly.

Toward the end, Blanchett arms herself with a weapon resembling an umbrella, becoming a sort of Oscar-winning Mary Poppins as she mows down enemies with what seem to be bolts of lightning. What happens to Black? Would you believe a truly disturbing sequence with his bearded adult face on top of a baby body? (There's an image we'll all take to the grave.)

This whole mess drags itself to a messy conclusion — wait, is that Kyle MacLachlan making an appearance late on? Kyle? Did you lose a bet, too? — and then it all ends on an impossibly sticky, sweet big wet kiss of a finale that undermines the entire project.

Fittingly, the closing credits evoke the goofy humor of a completely different animator — Charles Addams. (Look for jokey credits for the sofa and the griffin if you're one of the rare people sticking around.) Nothing makes a lot of sense in "The House with a Clock in Its Walls," except perhaps when Black's character warns: "This is no place for a kid."

"The House with a Clock in Its Walls" is rated PG for thematic elements including sorcery, some action, scary images, rude humor and language. Running time: 99 minutes.



Olivia Wilde and Oscar Isaac star in "Life Itself."
Amazon Studios

Unreliable storytelling makes 'Life Itself' lose all meaning

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

It's difficult to discuss what "Life Itself" is exactly about, because the film, written and directed by "This Is Us" creator Dan Fogelman, is such a twisty, tangled narrative that to describe any aspect of it is to risk spoilers. Besides, it's best to experience the twists and turns for yourself — going in cold really enhances the baffling experience of watching this emotionally sadistic film. The worst thing about "Life Itself" is not that it is emotionally sadistic. It's just how much it wants to be emotionally sadistic, while simultaneously missing the mark by a mile. Maybe over the course of a series, one could build the kind of attachment to characters in which the morbid and, frankly, gory scenarios might bring an emotional reaction, but contained within a feature-length running time — and with so much effort showing — it's a grand failure.

Watching "Life Itself" itself feels like being constantly pranked. It is an exercise in pulling the rug out from under the viewer, because the larger theme of the film is the "unreliable narrator," which is spelled out for us in kindergarten blocks when Abby (Olivia Wilde), in a flashback, declares that her college English thesis is going to be on said literary device. She describes her empathy to her boyfriend Will (Oscar Isaac) in a tumble of words: The most reliable narrator is ... life itself. Or maybe life itself is the most unreliable narrator. Who knows? It's one or the other, but truly, the film drains all meaning from the plot.

The cheapest thing about Fogelman's unreliable narrator device is that he uses it like a party trick, not to enhance the story in any way, like unreliable narrators used to great effect in film noir. The entirety of "Life Itself" is a cheap trick, starting with the trailer. You thought this was a movie about Isaac and Wilde in love? Think again.

Will and Abby do serve as our entry point into the sprawling story. Drunk, crazy Will has recently been released from an institution, participating in mandated sessions with a therapist (Annette Bening). Abby's no longer in his life, and his therapy involves describing the horrors of her rough childhood and writing screenplays like he and Abby used to dream about. Their favorite movie was obviously "Pulp Fiction" (unreliable narrator), and they're dressed as Vincent Vega and Mia Wallace when Will demands Abby "say yes" to his impromptu proposal over the keg at a Halloween party.

We see snippets of their relationship — declarations of love at frat parties, arguing about Bob Dylan in bed, happy lunches with Will's parents (Mandy Patinkin and Jean Smart), wherein his mother is delighted Abby's parents are dead, so she doesn't have to share the grandchildren. You know who else delights in dead parents? Dan Fogelman.

Suddenly, we're in Spain, on a bucolic olive farm owned by a philosophical Mr. Saccione (Antonio Banderas), who has a close connection with the family of his foreman, Javier (Sergio Peris-Mencheta), his wife Isabel (Laila Costa) and son Rodrigo (Adrian Marrero). Somehow the family in New York and the family in Spain are going to come together, simply because Fogelman wants to prove he can, manipulating the characters like a bunch of very depressing Sims.

"Life Itself" conjures up a lot of questions, but not the existential ones for which Fogelman might be hoping. Rather, the questions are more "what the?" "why?" and by the time the whole sordid, death-obsessed thing wraps up, all we're left with is "that's it?" The convoluted storytelling tries but fails to camouflage that there's just not that much story there. It turns out the most unreliable narrator was Fogelman all along.

"Life Itself" is rated R for language including sexual references, some violent images and brief drug use. Running time: 118 minutes.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



By CHRISTOPHER BYRD
The Washington Post

Lara Croft is one of a handful of characters the video game industry has produced who scarcely needs an introduction. Three Hollywood films and a slew of cultural criticism have served to fix her in the public imagination as a successful Indiana Jones clone and a metric of how the industry has (and hasn't) shifted in its portrayal of women. As Josephine Livingstone wrote in *The New Republic*, Lara Croft's recent incarnation in games and on the silver screen is "more human, less funny, more abs than boobs." Basically, still incredibly attractive, but in a less juvenile way.

When Crystal Dynamics rebooted the Tomb Raider franchise five years ago, it was widely noted that the studio took a page from Naughty Dog's *Uncharted* series which itself began life as a Tomb Raider knockoff. Both series are based around exploration, shooting and puzzle solving. "Tomb Raider's" (2013) use of cutscenes and action-set pieces made it impossible not to trace the cinematic imprint that Nathan Drake's globetrotting had on Lara's. But as I scrambled through Lara's new adventure, I couldn't resist thinking about Nathan's latest for different reasons. Just as "Uncharted 4" highlighted his narcissism, "Shadow of the Tomb Raider" shines a light on the suffering others endure due to Lara's single-minded impulses. Evidently, Naughty Dog and Crystal Dynamics approached the task of concocting another entry in a series with well-defined parameters by playing up the

negative aspects of its heroes.

Like any number of blockbusters these days, "Shadow of the Tomb Raider" opens with a crisis. On a storm-tossed plane above Peru, Lara struggles to gain control of the vessel that's ripping apart. After the back half of the plane is torn off, taking her best friend Jonah along with it, the game cuts to two days earlier. In Mexico, Lara and Jonah are on the hunt for Trinity, a secret society that murdered Lara's father, a renowned archaeologist. At a Day of the Dead



festival, they learn that Trinity has discovered the location of an underground temple in the area. Obviously, it's but a matter of time before Lara is standing in its inner sanctum. There, she finds a star chart positioned in the room like a stone table. Flexing her esoteric knowledge, she adjusts it. The astonished expression that flashes across her face, as the star chart descends into the floor and a pedestal supporting a dagger appears in its place, is another fine detail in the game's opening charm offensive. By this point, you've already engaged in perilous rock climbing, desperate swimming, a bit of stealth combat, and some move-this-over-there-then-rotate-some-gears puzzle solving. The blending of tutorial, story exposition and plot setup within the first 30 minutes of the game is bluntly effective.

So much is stuffed into those early moments that it's hard to make much of the fact that Lara sets in motion an environmental apocalypse by seizing the dagger, which is connected to the Mayan Goddess Chaik Chal. The episode feels like just another link in the chain of difficulties for which Lara seems preordained. Lara succumbs

'Tomb Raider' is a familiar thrill ride with new scenery

to a quick bout of guilt over what she has unleashed, but she is desperate to undo her folly. Acting on an earlier clue that she deciphered at a Mayan temple, Lara and Jonah set out for Peru to find a hidden city. This place, which Trinity is also looking for, is the fabled Incan city of Putiti.

A game like this is fairly spoiler proof. It's a foregone conclusion that Lara will meet every challenge head on. What's essential is that, for most of the adventure, Lara finds herself in a jungle where she can work to prevent the apocalypse, or explore tombs, or interact with the natives (most of whom speak English). Since Tomb Raider games have featured skill trees for some time now, it should come as no shock that Lara has some flashy offensive tactics at her disposal. Among other things, she can shoot an arrow into an unsuspecting nearby enemy and string his corpse in a tree, or emerge from the shadows covered in mud to knife an enemy a la Rambo. (There is a greater emphasis on stealth combat in the new game than what I remember from 2013's "Tomb Raider.")

Though I generally stuck to the main questline and sidequests, the optional tombs that I sampled were diverting puzzle boxes that sometimes

stumped me but didn't flabbergast me. Moreover, to the developers' credit, they have implemented a number of quality-of-life tweaks. "Shadow of the Tomb Raider's" difficulty can be adjusted so that puzzles, combat, or exploration can each be made easier or more difficult. Lower the puzzle difficulty to easy, for example, and Lara will give step-by-step instructions; set it to hard and she won't give any hints. Another feature I appreciated is that Camilla Luddington, the actress who plays Lara, reads the textual descriptions for the items that can be found in the game. Pausing a game that's all about moving from one feat to the next to read something small on the screen is not one of my favorite things. Yet, I enjoyed pausing the game — to check my phone or snack on something — and listening to Luddington's mellifluous voice recount some piece of Mayan or Incan mythology.

"Shadow of the Tomb Raider" is a familiar thrill ride with new scenery. It's good at what it does, it's simply not big on surprises.

Platforms: PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One

Online: tombraider.square-enix-games.com



Photos courtesy of Square Enix

Lara must master a deadly jungle and overcome terrifying tombs as she races to save the world from a Mayan apocalypse in "Shadow of the Tomb Raider."



WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Bavarian bounty

From hiking and spelunking to roller coasters and other rides, there's no shortage of things to do in Pottenstein

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Seen one village, seen 'em all, am I right? Well, not quite.

Even if you've been to so many German villages that the words "quaint" and "idyllic" fail to inspire, there's still one village that should be on your list: Pottenstein.

About an hour north of U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Pottenstein is a village tucked away in a deep valley, surrounded by steep cliffs and tall gray rocks jutting out in odd directions.

It has numerous hiking trails threaded through the surrounding forests. In fact, the first time I went to Pottenstein, it was with the aim of hiking and exploring the various caves and woods in the area.

I was not disappointed.

After a short hike from the nice, pedestrian area of the village, you're in a deep, dark, moss-covered forest. There are plenty of paths to take. Some bring you to large caves used by early humans in the Neolithic Period.

But the reason why I've been back to Pottenstein several times now are the nearby attractions, just outside town.

A two-minute drive from the village brings you to a small mountain covered with roller-coaster tracks, called E-Fun Park Pottenstein, which has several new rides, adding

to the traditional alpine coaster.

If you're stationed in Germany and you haven't been on an alpine coaster, I think you should take a serious look at your life priorities.

Alpine coasters like these put you in the driver's seat of a mini roller coaster. You push the levers at your side down to speed up, and

pull them up to slow down.

I've ridden one several times, and still haven't managed to keep the levers way down the entire ride, because the gondolas take some of those turns pretty fast.

The new rides include a coaster that resembles a huge that rests inside a metal lane instead of a track. When you turn on some of the cliffs really fast, you think you're going to tumble off the edge.

There's also a skywalk, which is basically a huge bridge at the top of the mountain. It has a handful of rope-built obstacle courses that you climb over, hundreds of feet above the ground. My father, who is afraid of heights, looked terrified up there. Good times!

Right next to the alpine coaster tracks is the Teufelsshoehle, or Devil's Cave, the longest cave in Germany. There are tours in English every hour that bring you through the cave, which stretches almost 5,000 feet. You see stalactites and stalagmites galore — and even a full cave bear skeleton from thousands of years ago.

If you want a souvenir, why not a 10-million-year-old trilobite fossil? The whole town is a fossil hotbed, and they are sold in many shops. There's an especially cool fossil shop in the city center where you can get some interesting ones for just a couple of euros.

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ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

About one hour north of the Grafenwoehr Training Area via the A470.

TIMES

Stores and attractions generally open about 9 a.m. and close about 9 p.m.

COSTS

Vary depending on the attraction

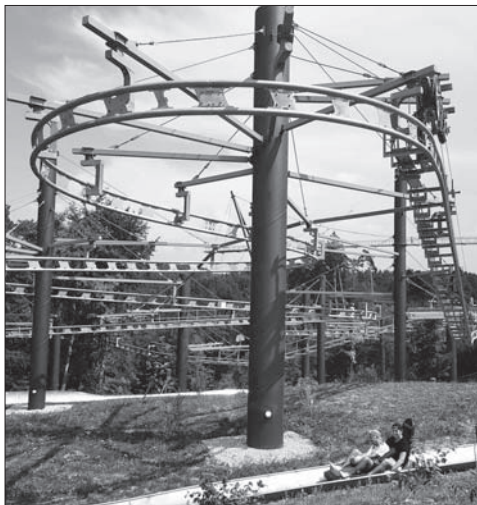
FOOD

The town has several German, Greek and Italian restaurants.

INFORMATION

Online: pottenstein.de/willkommen-in-pottenstein

— Martin Egnash



Clockwise from top left: Alpine coasters and other rides draw visitors to the E-Fun Park in Pottenstein, Germany; tourists climb through a rope course at the E-Fun Park; a former mill now serves as a hotel; stalagmites rise from the floor of Devil's Cave, Germany's longest cavern.

Photos by Martin Egnash/Stars and Stripes

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Irish food has gone from joke to gourmet

Irish cuisine has long been the fodder of jokes as a kind of penance to suffer through in order to enjoy the people, music and lush scenery of the Emerald Isle. But that's an outdated notion: Travelers today find fresh, inventive, flavorful meals there — and many Irish towns are working to establish themselves as foodie destinations.

Long considered the land of potatoes, Ireland's diet once reflected the country's dire economic circumstances. Though potatoes are still important here, there's no longer a reliance on them, and modern Irish menus often replace potatoes with rice or pasta. And Ireland has much more to offer: Irish beef, lamb and dairy products are among the EU's best. Streams full of trout and salmon and easy access to saltwater fish and shellfish mean a bounty of seafood.

When I'm in Ireland, I like to start my day with an old-fashioned "Irish Fry" (or an "Ulster Fry" in the North). It's a tasty reminder of Ireland's workaday roots. This big fried breakfast — traditionally what farm workers ate to get them through a day in the fields until dinner — is jokingly referred to as a "heart attack on a plate." With eggs, bacon, sausage, a grilled tomato, sautéed mushrooms and optional black pudding (sausage made from pig's blood), it's no light fare. To top it off, it's served with juice, tea or coffee, cereal, and toast with butter and marmalade. These days, few Irish folks start their day with such a feast (and thankfully it's easy to find healthy alternatives in Ireland), but indulging in the occasional fry-up is one of the joys of my trips here.

Be sure to try each region's culinary

specialty. Galway is famous for its oysters (with an annual oyster and seafood festival), Kerry and Dingle have excellent lamb, and County Wexford claims the best strawberries. And all across Ireland, you'll encounter traditional delicacies like tripe and black pudding. These kinds of quirky foods come from the off-cuts of meat — and the Irish proudly turn the trimmings into delicacies.



Rick Steves

typically provide a three-course menu, a good value early bird special and the regional specialties.

When it comes to pub grub, these days it can be Ireland's best eating value. This hearty comfort food is served in friendly surroundings for about \$20 a plate. Pub menus consist of traditional dishes, such as Irish stew (mutton with mashed potatoes, onions, carrots and herbs), fish-and-chips, bangers-and-mash (sausages and mashed potatoes), and coddle (bacon, pork sausages, potatoes and onions stewed in layers). In Dublin, you can enjoy your Guinness stew alongside traditional music, with experiences like the Musical Pub Crawl Dinner show.

Kinsale, in the south of Ireland, is one of the country's gourmet capitals, offering a satisfying mix of upscale traditional fare and creative modern cuisine. Local competition is fierce, and restaurants offer inventive, tempting menus. In this



JESSICA SHAW/RickStevens.com

The annual Dingle Food Festival hosts approximately 60 food and drink stalls and welcomes thousands of hungry foodies along its "Taste Trail."

seafaring town, seafood is king. The most popular restaurant in town is Fishy Fishy Cafe, which displays photos of the people who catch its fish.

In coastal towns like Kinsale, I look for seafood chowder, pan-fried hake and banoffee pie (made with bananas, cream and toffee). Ireland's famous cake-like, dense soda bread complements these meals wonderfully.

Dingle is another popular foodie destination with eclectic eating experiences in a charming seaside setting. During the first weekend of October, the Dingle Food Festival features everything from Russian borscht to kangaroo skewers in a huge and impressive celebration of food. Pubs

and restaurants serve up signature dishes from tents around town, and thousands mingle through Dingle's colorful streets enjoying some of Ireland's finest and most creative bites.

Long gone are the days where Irish food was something you ate to survive rather than to savor. Today, eating in Ireland is a rewarding cultural experience — and the secret is getting out. Come hungry, and take advantage of the foodie delights Ireland is serving up.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Busker's festival in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Street art festivals can be fun in all their diversity — no matter one's taste, there's likely to be an act or two that appeals. For the fifth time, Garmisch-Partenkirchen will host its version, titled StraKuFe, short for Strassenkunst Festival. This edition marks the first time the event spills over into Sunday.

The artists come from Germany and 12 other lands, from Brazil to India to Ukraine. With the exception of the Latin American ska and reggae group Palo Santo, all acts are appearing here for the first time. This year's acts include the juggling, sword-swallowing and contortions of Arctis Maxx, the fire and dance shows of Flare Performance, the magic and comedy of Flash Gomez, and the Bob Dylan-influenced music of British singer-songwriter Janieligh Cohen. Strongmen, balloon sculptors, acrobats and magicians are also on board.

Performances take place along the Ludwigstrasse. Street foods are available on-site. Festival hours are from 5 p.m. Friday, noon-10 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free, but tipping the artists is customary. While the city covers their travel costs and accommodation, the only money performers receive for their efforts comes from the audience. Online: strassenkunstfestival.de.



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [ricksteves.com/blogs/europe-traveler](https://www.ricksteves.com/blogs/europe-traveler)

Microbrewery Festival in Pilsen

The brewing tradition in the Czech city of Pilsen dates back to 1295, when the king first granted burghers the right to brew and sell beer in their own houses. When the poor and inconsistent quality of the beers they produced led the burghers to seek out a master brewer, a Bavarian by the name of Josef Groll was called to the scene. In October 1842, the first batch of Pilsner was brewed, with a taste so unique it allegedly surprised Groll himself.

Against this rich historical backdrop, a beer festival by the name of Slunce ve Skle, or Sun in a Glass, highlights the tasty wares of microbreweries in Pilsen, the Czech Republic and beyond. Forty or so breweries will be present on Friday; they're

joined by an additional three dozen brewers on Saturday.

A full program of events includes competitions, performances by bands and dance groups, and tours of the brewery and its beer spa. There's also a market selling beer-related souvenirs.

The festival takes place in the surroundings of the Pukmistr brewery in Pilsen-Cernice. Sample and soak in the surroundings beginning at 5 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday. Pilsen is located roughly between Prague and Grafenwoehr, Germany. Online: sluncevskle.cz

Oktoberfest beyond beer

From Oktoberfest's Sept. 22 opening day through the last day of celebrations on Oct. 7, here are five must-do spectacles and activities at Munich's bash:

Sept. 22: At 10:45 a.m., the Tent Owners and Breweries Parade gets underway. Tent proprietors, servers clutching fistfuls of giant mugs, and members of the big brass bands who play in the beer tents are among those riding along on flower-bedecked horse-drawn carts. The parade begins at the Josephspitalstrasse in the city center, passes along Sonnen- and Schwantalerstrasse and on to the Oktoberfest grounds via Bavariaring.

Sept. 23: At 10 a.m., thousands of marchers participate in the traditional costume parade. Groups from Bavaria are accom-



dam.germany.travel

Oktoberfest isn't just for beer. On Sept. 27 and Oct. 2, family days offer discounts on rides and attractions at the festival in Munich.

panied by ensembles from other parts of Germany and Europe for the 4-mile parade, which starts at Maximilianstrasse. **Sept. 27 and Oct. 2:** From 10 a.m.-7 p.m., family days offer discounts on the prices of rides and attractions geared toward the younger set. Make way to Street 3/Ost, where a family-friendly beer garden is set up.

Sept. 30: From 11 a.m., a traditional concert is performed by the Oktoberfest bands at the foot of the Bavaria monument. Brass instruments, alpine horns and drummers create their distinctive sounds for Munich's politicians and other prominent figures. The concert concludes with the release of thousands of brightly colored balloons.

Oct. 7: At noon, the traditional gun salute known as the Boellerschiessen takes place on the steps of the Bavaria monument. Online: tinyurl.com/ycheeykb

Techno Parade in Paris

While oompah music plays in Munich, they'll be moving to a different beat in Paris, the site of the massive Techno Parade. The single-day event organized to promote electronic music culture will animate the streets of the French capital Sept. 22 from noon-7 p.m. The Techno Parade — about a dozen massive floats and massive sound systems pumping out the sounds of techno, house, trance, drum n' bass and hardcore. For the exact parade route, see technoparade.fr.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

Bun-D, above, is located just around the corner from the main food court at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center on Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The health-food eatery offers an alternative to the fast-food fare there.



After Hours: Germany

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

I'm normally among the first to sample any new eateries around Vogelweh and Ramstein. I celebrated the debuts of Dunkin' Donuts, Popeyes and P.F. Chang's as I lamented the fiery demise of the parking-lot Burger King and the disappearance of Chili's Too. I welcomed the expansion of Shawingz and Doener Time into Vogelweh's Kazabara Club. I'm anxiously awaiting Boston Market's attempt to succeed where Captain D's failed and intend to contribute what I can to that success.

But for months, my visceral reaction to the concept of "health food" kept me away from Bun-D, a walk-up spot in the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center emphasizing the healthiness of its various pitas, salads, bowls and smoothies. I managed to hold my ground even as its lines grew long and tables in the Ramstein food court filled with appealing mounds of chicken and rice.

For me, health ranks well below taste and portion size in choosing a restaurant. But I know intellectually that I should value health more, so the term health food forces me to confront my own dysfunctional thought process. That's not the experience I'm looking for; I'm there to eat my feelings, not examine them.

Finally, inspired not by a sudden craving for quinoa but by the looming deadline for the very article you are reading, my wife and I tried Bun-D out for lunch.

I wish Bun-D had been able to negate my pre-conceived ideas of what an unabashedly healthy eatery offers, but, alas, it did not. The bowl I chose started with a base of rice and chicken, piled with the vegetables, sauces and other toppings of my choice. I was thrilled with this arrangement, as I love a selection of options served according to my whim. The final product looked like something tasty, despite the jutting spinach leaves.

But I did not enjoy it. The array of flavors I anticipated was instead a combination of textures with a uniformly bland taste. I begrudgingly finished the bowl as my eye wandered in the direction of Johnny's Rocketts.

To be fair, my wife had a far higher opinion of Bun-D than I, although any place that serves guacamole has an unfair advantage with her. And it



Bun-D offers a diverse collection of health-conscious toppings for its rice bowls, pitas and other menu items, including guacamole.

BUN-D

Location: Kaiserslautern Military Community Center, just around the corner from Starbucks and the main food court.

Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays

Dress: Lots of men and women in military uniforms

Prices: The ubiquitous rice bowls cost about \$10.

Information: Website: bun-d.com, phone: (+49)(0)6371-952-2800

— Gregory Broome

appears to do a brisk business with or without my support, so good for them. I just didn't like it.

But I was left to consider what role my pre-existing health-food bias played in evaluating Bun-D. Did it ever have a chance to succeed with me? I thought about this as I settled into a movie theater seat upstairs from the restaurant, mixing small handfuls of Caramel M&Ms into a proportionate amount of buttered popcorn.

I should probably give Bun-D another try. Soon.

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Precook the apples to put deep-dish pie over the top

America's Test Kitchen

There's no better way to enjoy fall's abundant apple harvest than in a towering deep-dish pie. Unfortunately, this dessert often yields unevenly cooked, shrunken apples swimming in an ocean of their own exuded juices atop a pale, soggy crust.

We wanted each slice to be dense with juicy apples, framed by a buttery, flaky crust. A combination of sweet and tart apples, tossed with a little brown sugar, salt, lemon and cinnamon, promised a perfectly balanced filling.

Precooking the apples solved the shrinking problem, helping them hold their shape in the oven while also eliminating any excess liquid, and thereby protecting the bottom crust. We mounded the cooled slices in our pie plate, covered them in the top crust, and baked. Our sky-high apple pie emerged golden



AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN/AP

A deep-dish apple pie is a great finish to a meal in fall.

brown and chock-full of tender apples, filling our kitchen with the homey, comforting aromas of this autumn favorite.

Good choices for tart apples are Granny Smiths, Empires or Cortlands; for sweet we recommend Golden Delicious, Jonagolds or Braeburns. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

DEEP-DISH APPLE PIE

Servings: 8

Start to finish: 1 hour (plus 3 hours for chilling and cooling)

Ingredients for filling:

2½ pounds firm tart apples (about 5 large), peeled, cored and sliced ½-inch thick

2½ pounds firm sweet apples (about 5 large), peeled, cored and sliced ½-inch thick

½ cup (3½ ounces) plus 1

tablespoon granulated sugar

¼ cup packed (1¼ ounces)

light brown sugar

1½ teaspoons grated lemon zest

plus 1 tablespoon juice

¼ teaspoon salt

1½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 large egg white, lightly

beaten

Directions:

Roll 1 disk of dough into 12-inch circle on lightly floured work surface, then fit into 9-inch pie plate, letting excess dough hang over edge; cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Roll other disk of dough into 12-inch circle on lightly floured work surface, then transfer to parchment-lined baking sheet; cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Toss apples, ½ cup granulated sugar, brown sugar, lemon zest, salt and cinnamon together in Dutch oven. Cover and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until apples are tender when poked with fork but still hold their shape, 15 to 20 minutes. Transfer apples and their juice to rimmed baking sheet and let cool to room temperature, about 30 minutes.

Adjust oven rack to lowest position and heat oven to 425°F. Drain cooled apples thoroughly in colander set over bowl, reserving ¼ cup juice. Stir lemon juice into reserved ¼ cup apple juice.

Spread apples into dough-lined pie plate, mounding them slightly in middle, and drizzle with lemon juice mixture. Loosely roll second piece of dough around rolling pin and gently unroll it

over pie. Trim, fold, and crimp edges and cut 4 vent holes in top. Brush dough with egg white and sprinkle with remaining 1 tablespoon sugar.

Place pie on rimmed baking sheet and bake until crust is golden, about 25 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375°F, rotate sheet, and continue to bake until juices are bubbling and crust is deep golden brown, 30 to 40 minutes longer. Let pie cool on wire rack until filling has set, about 2 hours; serve slightly warm or at room temperature.

Basic Double-Crust Pie

Dough ingredients:

2½ cups (12½ ounces) all-purpose flour

2 tablespoons sugar

1 teaspoon salt

½ cup vegetable shortening, cut into ½-inch pieces and chilled

12 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch pieces and chilled

6–8 tablespoons ice water

Directions:

Process flour, sugar and salt in food processor until combined. Scatter shortening over top and process until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal, about 10 seconds. Scatter butter pieces over top and pulse until mixture resembles coarse crumbs, about 10 pulses. Transfer mixture to large bowl.

Sprinkle 6 tablespoons ice water over mixture. Stir and press dough together, using stiff rubber spatula, until dough sticks together. If dough does not come together, stir in remaining water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until it does.

Divide dough into 2 even pieces. Turn each piece of dough onto sheet of plastic wrap and flatten each into 4-inch disk. Wrap each piece tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour. Before rolling dough out, let sit on counter to soften slightly, about 10 minutes.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Hadrian's Wall in England

A border fence from ancient times



By JERRY HARMER
Associated Press

“Looks like we brought the weather with us from California,” the elderly tourist says, pulling on a hat and strolling past me. He disappears up a grass slope, beneath a brilliant blue sky, his wife beside him.

It's the first of several American accents I hear that morning. Perhaps they've come to see what a real border fence looks like.

Because that's precisely what's drawn them, and me, to this remote and spectacular part of northern England: an imposing, defensive barrier meant to keep the bad guys out and the good guys safe.

At least, that's how the ancient Romans would have seen it.

Hadrian's Wall — named after the emperor who commissioned it — was begun in the second century, in the year 122. Soldiers toiled for a decade or so, piling stone upon stone until it stretched from coast to coast, across the very top of what's now northern England: a distance of 73 miles.

It stood up to 15 feet with walls nearly 10 feet wide. It bristled with towers, forts and watch

posts, called milecastles, and gave commanding views of the surrounding countryside.

Trendy designers today like to talk of statement walls. This was, indeed, a statement wall. It was where civilization ended.

The wall let the Romans control who and what came into the empire. And it kept the peace. Beyond it were war-mongering communities in what is, today, Scotland, itching to ravage the settlements of refined Roman Britain and bring down fire on the hated invaders.

Hadrian's Wall kept them out.

Almost 2,000 years on, long sections on Hadrian's Wall still stand, remarkably well-preserved. The thick stone line snakes for miles across rugged uplands, and down into wooded valleys.

UNESCO named it a World Heritage Site in 1987 for its “extraordinarily high cultural value.”

My family and I start at the ruins of Birdswald Fort, said by English Heritage, a charity that looks after historic sites, to have the most impressive remaining defenses of all the original 16 forts. We then follow the wall, in blazing sunshine, as it undulates eastward.

But they soon tire of this huge

slab of history.

I go on alone, past the impressive remains of abutments that once supported a triple bridge across the River Irthing. The wall's thick spine ascends a hill ahead of me.

You are not meant to climb up on it, but I have an urge to connect. I run my hand against the sun-warmed stones; some a whitish-gray, others blackened by an eternity of wild, northern winters. I marvel that the last person to touch them, before me, was quite possibly the man who laid them, back when Hadrian's Wall marked the extreme northern edge of the Roman empire's vast reach.

Sitting on the edge of an escarpment, among the ruins of Harrow's Scar milecastle, a ruddy-faced walker is taking a breather. Bill Vincent is halfway through a six-day trek along the wall's entire length, coast to coast, “to mark the start of my 60th year.”

I ask him whether he thinks about the history as he walks: the garrisons, shivering behind the ramparts; the tattooed tribal warriors, staring resentfully at this massive stone affront.

“Yes, you can't help but do that,” he says, “but, to be honest, I think more about my feet.”

JERRY HARMER/AP

Two walkers stroll along part of Hadrian's Wall, in Cumbria, England, in July. In its heyday, the wall — built by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago to control frontier movement and as a defensive barrier — stood up to 15 feet high and was nearly 10 feet wide. It stretched coast to coast.

KNOW & GO

By car, Birdswald Fort is 4 miles west of Greenhead, off the B6318. There are signposts as you get nearer. Sat nav: CA57DD. There is a pay car park a short distance away. Visitors can combine Birdswald Fort with Housesteads Fort, a short drive away. By train, the nearest train stations are at Brampton and Halwhistle, about 7 miles away. By bus, the local Go Northeast company runs seasonal routes to points along Hadrian's Wall with its AD 122 service. www.gonortheast.co.uk/ad122 ENGLISH HERITAGE: english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/hadrians-wall

The best travel writers you likely haven't read

Travel writing interweaves history, culture, politics and personal experience with the complexity of being an outsider in an established community. And the best travel writing comes from writers who are honest about the sometimes challenging realities of travel, and who reveal in the joy and growth that comes with it. Here's where to start.

"An African in Greenland" by Tete-Michel Kpomassie
Kpomassie writes about his childhood in Togo, where he first read about Greenland, to his eventual journey through luck and the kindness of strangers, to the remotest parts of that country. It's told with such earnestness and joy that you can easily see how Kpomassie managed to charm so many strangers along the way.

"Blind Spot" by Teju Cole
Through photography and writing, Teju Cole curates a voyage through about 20 countries. Ranging from broad cityscapes to up-close portraits, objects and scenes, Cole's photos and short essays give snapshots of place.

"Catfish and Mandala" by Andrew X. Pham
Born in war-stricken Vietnam, Andrew Pham escaped to the U.S. as a boy, then returned to Vietnam many years later as an Americanized young man. Pham travels along blurred lines of identity, seeing shades of his own family history and ripping away much of the exoticism through which Vietnam is often viewed.

"Lover Mother" by Saidiya Hartman
Saidiya Hartman traced her own family's journey from the hinterland in Ghana to the Atlantic coast, where they would have been sold as slaves destined for the United States. Like many black Americans descended from slaves, Hartman admits that she hoped to find a sense of belonging in the country her ancestors came from. Instead, she finds herself an outsider there.

"A Long Way From Home" by Claude McKay
McKay writes an unfiltered take on his travels from Jamaica to Harlem to Europe to post-Revolutionary Russia and back again. McKay resists the urge to romanticize that marks so much of travel writing, and instead boldly denounces, criticizes and lays bare the realities of the people and places he encounters.

"Equal in Paris," "Stranger in the Village" by James Baldwin
Baldwin's travel essays from "Notes of a Native Son" are must-reads. In "Equal in Paris," he describes a Paris in which he is poor and uncertain of how to navigate race. "None of my old weapons could serve me here," he writes. "I did not know what they saw when they looked at me. I knew very well what Americans saw when they looked at me."

In "Stranger in the Village," Baldwin is regarded as a novelty in a small Swiss town where he is the only black man. He arrives as a stranger and leaves a stranger, meditating all the while on how places where a black man is so strange a sight will soon no longer exist. "The world is white no longer," he writes, "and it will never be white again."

—Crystal Paul
The Seattle Times

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



Festival staff fry some of the 40,000 strips of bacon given away at the Japan Bacon Festival in Kofu, Japan, on Nov. 3, 2017.



Above: Vendors prepare bacon at last year's festival. Right: Children participate in the Piglet Parade during last year's Japan Bacon Festival in Kofu, Japan.



Hog wild

Japan Bacon Festival set to be a squeal for attendees

BY LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

Japan is a nation famous for its festival traditions. The celebrations—which can range from the rowdy and rambunctious to the spiritual and serene—often date back hundreds of years, and many are steeped in ancient Japanese history and folklore. But a festival taking place next weekend in Japan's Yamanashi prefecture is based on something a bit more contemporary: A love of all things bacon.

Now in its second year, the Japan Bacon Festival got its start when the organizers of Iowa's Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival coordinated with local partners to hold a Japanese version of their annual bacon lovefest.

The festival, which takes place the weekend of Sept. 29 and 30, will be held at the Kofu Historical Park, located adjacent to Yamanashi's Kofu Station.

This year's festival is dubbed Bacon Wars: The Pork Loin Strikes Back! and promises “double the space, double the days, and double the pork,” said Brooks Reynolds, co-founder of the Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival and chairman of the Iowa Bacon Board.

“This year we have 6,000 pounds of pork: 4,000 of bacon and 2,000 of pork loin,” Reyn-



Photos courtesy of the Japan Bacon Festival

This sandwich, created exclusively for the Japan Bacon Festival, is among the offerings available for purchase at the event Sept. 29 and 30 in Kofu, Japan.

olds said. “We’ll be giving away 75,000 slices of bacon.”

Pork loin is a new festival offering for this year's event, as is a bacon-eating contest and the Japan Bacon Queen Pageant.

Entrants to the bacon-eating contest can compete solo or in groups of three, with the winner being whomever can eat a set amount of bacon fastest. The winning individual will take home a 30,000-yen prize (about

\$270), while the victorious group will be awarded 50,000 yen.

Japan is a natural fit for a festival celebrating the virtues of pork, as the country consumes more pork annually than beef and chicken combined. Despite producing more than half of its pork domestically, Japan also leads the world in pork imports.

While a Japanese bacon festival influenced by Iowans might seem a bit odd, the link between the Midwestern state and the mountainous prefecture of Yamanashi stretches back more than 50 years to the Iowa Hog Lift of 1960.

“After two typhoons devastated Yamanashi prefecture, the state of Iowa, in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force, sent 36 breeding hogs and 100,000 bushels of feed corn to help with the recovery effort,” Reynolds said. “That led to Yamanashi prefecture and Iowa becoming sister states.”

In just two years, the 36 hogs multiplied to more than 500—and today, most pigs in Japan have some genetic link to those original Iowa porkers.

“Over 10,000 people showed up [to the festival] last year and it was a hit,” Reynolds said. “It just goes to show that two different cultures can come together over the common bond of loving pork and bacon.”

cook.leon@stripes.com

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The Japan Bacon Festival will be held at Kofu Historical Park, which is accessible by train via the JR Chuo Line and JR Minobu Line at Kofu Station. Kofu is also easily reached by car via the Chuo Expressway at the Kofu Showa exit. From Hachioji and nearby points in western Tokyo, the drive takes about 90 minutes. Limited express trains, such as the Super Azusa, can allow visitors to reach the festival in just over an hour, while local and rapid trains complete the journey in about 100 minutes.

TIMES

The festival is 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, and Sunday, Sept. 30.

COSTS

Admission to the festival is free, but guests are required to purchase Bacon Bucks at the event, which can be exchanged for food and beverages.

FOOD

Pork loins and bacon galore, along with other food, will be for sale from vendors.

INFORMATION

Online: japanbaconfestival.jp

— Leon Cook

WEEKEND: TRAVEL, FOOD & DINING

Pacific

Uniquely Juneau

From salmon to sorbet, locally minded chefs redefining Alaskan fare

By Liza Weisstuch

Special to The Washington Post

If there's one thing you should know about Lionel Uddipa, it's that he forages. The executive chef at Salt, an upscale yet casual restaurant that dubs its food "creative Alaskan cuisine," gets up early to head to the wilderness. Sometimes, he brings his 2½-year-old daughter, Juniper, with him. She's perfect for it, he says. She can spot colors he doesn't because she's closer to the ground. He picks mountain strawberries and beach aspargus in the early summer; salmonberries and cloudberrries in late summer; spruce tips and devil's club in the spring; and mushrooms when they're around.

Know that, and you will know that some of his menu specials are a direct result of his morning walk.

When I visited Salt this month, Uddipa took chicken of the woods mushrooms he picked that day, confit broccoli and Alaskan halibut, and seared it on a slice of Himalayan salt at my table. Then he excused himself because he was going to New Orleans in the morning to hand over the crown he won last year at the Great American Seafood Cook-Off and bestow it on this year's champ. His victory last year was a big coup for him and for the growing number of young chefs who are elevating Alaskan food.

So what is Alaskan food? It's trickier to pinpoint than Louisiana food, what with its jazzy Cajun spices and general swagger. It's more soothing than Texan cuisine, with all its devil-may-care charred edges. And it's more modest yet just as fun as that of New England, with its lobster rolls and abundant oysters. It's about using every part of a fish, holistic as a necessity, not a statement. It's foraging in the morning and serving the bounty at night. It's smoking fish over indigenous alder. It's cooking seafood from the wild because fish farms are illegal in Alaska. It's an interconnectedness that's inevitable in a capital city with a population of about 32,000 that boasts 250-plus miles of trail but only 42 miles of road, making for a culinary scene that works like linked gears.

Salt is owned by Tracy LaBarge, whose other restaurant, Tracy's King Crab Shack, has become a fixture on the Juneau Seawalk since it opened last year. Before that, she operated Tracy's out of an 8-by-10-foot shed on the waterfront near the city's cruise port, at which nearly 1.5 million passengers disembark seasonally.



Locally sourced ice and other original touches distinguish Juneau's burgeoning food scene. In Bocca al Lupo's chef Beau Scholer serves smoked sockeye salmon with smoked roe, above, at the high-end but casual Italian restaurant. Coppa owner Marc Wheeler makes treats like rhubarb sorbet, right, by hand. At the Narrows, a cocktail bar, some drinks are chilled with glacial ice from the Harriman Fjord, below.

PHOTOS BY LIZA WEISTUCH
For The Washington Post



The roll call of ready orders at Tracy's was shouted — "Brandon from San Diego! ... Amy from Omaha! ... Albert from Tampa!" — as crab legs were transferred out of the pots onto butcher paper and ferried by the dozens from the appropriately noisy open kitchen to the communal tables.

And while crab legs and LaBarge's method of steaming them hasn't changed much since she opened the crab shack in 2006, the culinary landscape of Juneau has.

"About six or seven years ago, the joke was if you wanted to get a great meal, you had to go to Seattle," says Kelly "Midge" Moore, founder and CEO (that's "Chief Eating Officer") of Juneau Food Tours and the company's main tour guide. But in recent years, several young Alaskans who had gone to the Lower 48 to earn their culinary chops returned and opened restaurants. Juneau was much more welcoming than hypercompetitive markets such as New York City and San Francisco. "People just started creating different concepts, but usually keeping it local and working nose-to-tail. I refer to them as 'guerilla chefs' — they made it by getting in there, having fun and being creative. They didn't all have professional training, either."

If you were to map out a family tree of Juneau restaurants, many branches would extend from LaBarge. In addition to owning Tracy's and Salt, she co-owns McGivney's, a sports bar that serves elevated pub grub; over the years, she has employed many people who've gone on to start businesses nearby. Take Dave McCasland, who once tended bar at Salt and now owns Dockhand Dave's, a downtown food truck with an elaborate dining pavilion adorned with fishing nets in a nod to a prior job as a commercial fisherman and cook for the crew. It's a gig he chose over working as a scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The specialty at Deckhand Dave's is fish tacos, which McCasland presented paired

with a beer from Devil's Club Brewing, a creative company a few blocks away, while he waxed rhapsodic about sustainability and growing his business. "My fryer is nicer than my sled," he said, referring to his snowmobile, which is the typical prized possession among his young, nature-loving friends.

Elsewhere along the Juneau Seawalk is Barnacle, a food company founded in 2016 by Lia Heitler and her boyfriend Matt Kern. Matt, who worked as a fisheries biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for seven years, left to start the business with Lia, who was doing community development work around food security. Today, they're veritable ambassadors for kelp, which they harvest by hand and use to make an assortment of salsas, pickled items and dried seasonings. The day I met them in their shop — a converted shipping container — and tasted their wares, I learned about "mariculture" and the many environmental assets of kelp.

At one point, Kern excused himself to talk to a man slowing down on his bicycle. It was Marc Wheeler, who owns Coppa, a small shop where he sells sandwiches and hangs art by locals on the walls. The highlight, though, is the ice cream and sorbet he makes. Rhubarb sorbet, a popular flavor, is made with local farmers' product. But perhaps most Alaskan of all is Wheeler's chunks of salmon candy. Having grown up on a strict New York City diet of bagels and lox, I expected this would be an affront, but it turns out that the flavor makes fine sense, as it mixes extreme sweet and extreme salt, the same combo that makes chocolate and peanut butter so beloved.

Like so many things in this town, it was exotic, yet completely familiar.

Same goes for the cocktails at the Narrows. Well, to be more specific, same goes for the ice in the cocktails at the Narrows. Jared Cure, a Juneau native and grandson of a restaurateur, opened the bar in 2017 after

10 years in San Francisco working in the software industry and falling in love with that city's craft cocktail scene. The brick-walled space, once an unremarkable drive, features a fireplace; stacked logs are part of the decor. His menu leans classic but features some drinks with a local twist, such as the rhubarb fizz. To drive

home the Alaskan pedigree, he uses ice balls that have been customized for him by Alaska Glacial Ice, a company that harvests from the Harriman Fjord in Prince William Sound. The dense spheres double as a garnish of sorts as their natural crystal patterns, formed by centuries-old compressed air, add intrigue to the drink.

On my last evening in Juneau, I had dinner at In Bocca al Lupo, an Italian restaurant whose kitchen is run by chef Beau Scholer, a 2016 semifinalist for the James Beard Rising Star of the Year award. While Scholer skittered in and out of the kitchen, wiping away specks from platters holding edge dishes such as parsley cavatelli (Alaskan scallops, parsley, garlic, chili flakes, cauliflower), a boyish chef made pizzas at a station behind the bar and slid them into a wood-burning oven.

I chatted with the hostess before I left, and she thanked me for coming to "our little undiscovered gem." At that moment, I thought she meant the restaurant. Now, I suspect she meant Juneau.



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

TOURING FROM
TOP to
BOTTOM

New Zealand's popular Milford Sound extends from mountaintops to the sea

By ERIN E. WILLIAMS
Special to The Washington Post

We were on top of the world at the bottom of the world, encircled by a 360-degree panorama of mountain peaks. My husband and I had reached Key Summit, the pinnacle of a half-day hike in New Zealand's Fiordland National Park. I wanted to lollygag and drink in the views, but the weather had other ideas. The temperature plummeted about 30 degrees and a blustery wind threatened to whisk us away. Andrew and I started back down the path. With bent heads, we pushed through the wind — extreme for us, but weather as usual for a Kiwi.

Key Summit is one of many hiking trails — or as locals call them, tracks — that crisscross the South Island near Milford Sound, the green gemstone atop New Zealand's wilderness crown. Milford Sound sits within Fiordland National Park, which in turn is part of Te Wahipounamu — South West New Zealand, a UNESCO World Heritage site that

covers 10 percent of the country's landmass.

Milford Sound's mountains, rain forests and its fjord draw more than 500,000 visitors each year. Many of them are tour bus day-trippers from neighboring Te Anau or Queenstown who take a quick boat cruise, snap photos and head back to town. One lodge is available to those who prefer to stay a little longer.

Andrew and I chose a different option: driving a rental car and pitching our tent. This provided us with maximum flexibility to experience this famous landscape without the infamous crowds — from ascending mountaintops to descending below the water's surface to float among deep-sea creatures.

To reach Milford Sound, we departed our hostel in Te Anau, a nearby lakeside town, and hit the road: the Milford Road, or State Highway 94, which is the only land-based route. We left before sunrise to allow enough time to make our 9 a.m. Milford Sound cruise departure.

The nearly 75-mile journey stretched toward cloud-ringed mountains that glowed pink in the

predawn light. Fog draped over lowland pastures, and yellow wildflowers framed the road. As we passed the Fiordland National Park entrance, the road twisted through an enchanted fairyland of red beech forests and golden grasslands draped in stalky wild lupines. The Livingstone and Earl mountain ranges loomed closer with every mile.

After many stops to gawk at the natural drama, we reached the nearly mile-long Homer Tunnel, which passes through a mountain into the Milford Sound area. Although there was no traffic, a Department of Conservation ranger in Te Anau had warned me that vehicles would be queuing later in the day.

As soon as we pulled over to enjoy the view before the tunnel, a large green parrot landed on our car hood with a thump. The native kea set to work stripping the rubber from the windshield wiper, eyeing me for my reaction.

The world's only alpine parrots are highly intelligent and seem to hang around parking lots solely to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

A boat trails in another's wake at New Zealand's Milford Sound.

ERIN E. WILLIAMS/For The Washington Post

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

FROM PAGE 34

tease camera-snapping tourists and dismantle their vehicles. One tried to rip off our antenna before clumsily sliding down the back of our car on his belly. Three clung with their beaks to the top of a camper van leaving the parking lot. They rode with apparent glee down the mountain until they released together, a flash of emerald flying into the treetops.

Tearing ourselves away from the rambunctious parrots, we drove through the Homer Tunnel and descended the mountain to Milford Sound.

We checked in for our cruise at the bright visitor terminal and boarded the boat for the two-hour circle around the misty fjord. Milford Sound isn't actually a sound; rather, it is one of 14 fjords in Fiordland. Ice age glaciers carved the valley, and as they receded, the Tasman Sea filled it.

Moments after the boat pulled away, Mitre Peak appeared overhead. Below, its reflection tattooed the water's surface. At 5,322 feet, it rises directly from the fjord floor. Taller still is Mount Pembroke, which cradles the last glacier visible from the water. Granite cliffs adorned with precious jade-colored greenstone soared hundreds of feet in the air. Rain forests clung to the slopes. Waterfalls thundered into the fjord.

This early in the day, there were only a couple dozen passengers. The crew pointed out natural features and described the fjord's Maori and European history. The boat passed Dale Point, Milford Sound's entrance from the Tasman Sea, which eluded sailors for years. Although generations of Maori used the fjord (naming it Piopiotahi) to gather greenstone (or Pounamu) and food, European explorers didn't realize until the early 1800s that what appeared to be a bay was actually a gateway to the fjord.

We slowed down to pass a group of fur seals sunning themselves on rocks. I leaned over the bow to scan the water for sharks, dolphins and penguins who visit the area, but they were a no-show.

When the boat reached Harrison Cove, the fjord's shallowest area, Andrew and I disembarked with another couple at the Milford Discovery Center and Underwater Observatory. Opened in 1995, the observatory floats on the water's surface. Steel beams bolted to the fjord wall stabilize the structure yet allow it to rise and fall with the tide. The creators designed the structure for minimal effect on its environs, and the animals are free to come and go as they please.

A guide greeted us among rows of panels that detailed the area's natural and cultural history. We descended 64 steps to a circle of windows that opened onto a reef, part of the Piopiotahi Marine Reserve that protects more than 2.5 square miles along the fjord's northern side.

Outside the window, a blue cod regarded me with curiosity. Snake stars draped over coral, and sea perch lay camouflaged on the reef. Starfish clustered in crevices, and schools of fish undulated around the observatory.



KNOW & GO

WHERE TO STAY

Knobs Flat

6178 State Hwy. 94, Te Anau Milford Hwy., Te Anau, Fiordland
011-64-3-249-9122, knobsflat.co.nz
Serviced campsites, self-contained studios and showers along the Milford Road within Fiordland National Park. Lodging starts at about \$13 for campsites.

Milford Sound Lodge

State Highway 94, Milford Sound
011-64-3-249-8071, milfordlodge.com
The lodge offers several overnight lodging options at the fjord, including camper van sites, backpacker rooms and chalets. Also offers packages and dining options. Dorm lodging starts at about \$26.

WHERE TO EAT

Ristorante Pizzeria Paradiso

1 Milford Crescent, Te Anau
03-249-4305, paradisopizzeria.co.nz
A wood-fired pizza oven, traditional Italian dishes and fresh sorbetto and gelato await. Indoor and outdoor seating available. Menu includes a variety of options, from vegan to gluten-free. Entrees from about \$13.

WHAT TO DO

Mitre Peak Cruises

Milford Sound Visitor Terminal
State Highway 94, Milford Sound
011-64-3-249-8110, mitrepeak.co.nz
Several companies, including Mitre Peak, offer Milford Sound cruises. Two-hour cruises start at about \$53.

Milford Discovery Center and Underwater Observatory

Southern Discoveries
Freshwater Basin, Milford Sound
011-64-3-441-1137, wapo.st/Milford
Visitors can arrange pickup and drop-off with their cruise company, and adult admission starts at about \$16. Admission includes a guided visit to the observatory that lasts about an hour. A full Southern Discoveries cruise, observatory visit and one-hour guided kayak tour package starts at about \$118.

INFORMATION

fiordland.org.nz



PHOTOS BY ERIN E. WILLIAMS/For The Washington Post

Top: Wild lupines frame Cascade Creek in Fiordland National Park, New Zealand. Above: The world's only alpine parrots — keas — are native to New Zealand's South Island.



A flooded trail segment on the Gertrude Saddle Route in New Zealand.

decorating the trail, and moss dripped from the trees. After an hour, the Key Summit Track split from the Routeburn and climbed above the tree line. Snow-capped mountains became our trail companions. They kindly didn't say a word about my huffing and puffing as the terrain steepened.

At the 3,000-foot summit, a nature trail curved through an alpine wetland where pools reflected gnarled trees and clouds. The Humboldt, Ailsa, Livingstone, Earl and Darran mountain ranges encircled the peak. Bright blue lakes adorned the mountains like pendants, a surprisingly spectacular payoff for such an accessible ascent.

And then the weather turned mean. By the time we reached our campsite at Knobs Flat along the Milford Road, it was 15 hours after starting our day. I was ready to clamber into our tent for the night. The campground is a small operation in the Eglington Valley, which cradles one of New Zealand's most extensive lowland beech forests and more than 30 threatened plant and animal species.

The facility has six studio units, tent sites, hydro-powered amenities (a rustic hot shower, kitchen and laundry) and an unwelcome committee: sandflies. As soon as we stepped out of the car, the region's most notorious residents began assailing us. We hurriedly pitched our tent, waving away the marauders while spindly legged, white-bellied South Island robins investigated our work.

We dashed into the campground's shared kitchen, knocking elbows with German campers as we cooked dinner. I zipped into my sleeping bag well before the 9:30 p.m. summer sunset and fell asleep to the lullaby of sandflies hurling themselves against our tent.

The next morning, I broke camp in the rain and consulted our host about hiking the first segment of the Gertrude Saddle Route from its trailhead near the Homer Tunnel.

"Be careful," he said. "We lose tramps out there every year."

Given the weather and his warning, we decided to traverse only the route's flat, boulder-strewn glacial valley and turn back before a difficult rock face made passage treacherous.

After a couple of hiking hours, we reached the rock face. Rain and sleet pelted my gear. Milford Sound was living up to its reputation as one of the planet's wettest places.

It was time to turn around. Andrew carefully rockhopped along the flooded trail, but I slugged along knee-deep in water, not caring whether I became any more soaked. I lowered my eyes to avoid the stinging rain and delighted in the details — the mist, trees, boulders, moss and water — that the mountains might have overshadowed on a sunny day.

Just as I began to Te Anau, we made our last stop at an easy pull-off for Cascade Creek. Alpine pecks poked from the mist, but wildflowers stole the scene. Acres of purple, pink and blue lupines fringed the rocky stream in riotous color — a final, sweet reminder of the region's varied drama.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

2

takes on
Carrie Underwood's
new album, 'Cry Pretty'



I Singer takes risks, turns out her first truly artistic effort

By GLENN GAMBOA
Newsday

Carrie Underwood has always been a great singer, from the moment we met the Checotah, Okla., native on "American Idol" in 2005.

But she hasn't always had great songs to sing. For every "Jesus, Take the Wheel" or "So Small" on her albums, there was plenty of pleasant country filler. But not on "Cry Pretty" (Capitol Music Nashville).

Start to finish, Underwood's sixth album is easily her best, filled with songs that make the most of her voice, both physically and lyrically. The title track might be more poignant following Underwood's fall last year that resulted in 50 stitches in her face and an uncomfortable focus on how she looks. But when she belts out the song's final third, she is undeniable.

Maybe the biggest surprise on "Cry Pretty" are the numerous risks Underwood takes that all pay off. Musically, she offers her poppiest song in years with "That Song That We Used to Make Love To," which leans more toward Aaliyah-era R&B instead of anything currently on country radio. Lyrically, Underwood takes on issues that she has previously sidestepped.

"The Bullet" is a wrenching ballad about those left behind by violence that Underwood included in part because of the shooting deaths at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas. "You can blame it on hate or blame it on guns," she sings with increasing intensity. "But mamas ain't supposed to bury their sons."

On "Love Wins," one of the nine songs she co-wrote on the album, Underwood creates a soaring anthem of inclusion after pointing out pitfalls like "politics and prejudice."

Of course, Underwood shines brightest with a string of future country smashes, including the celebration of classic country heroes on "Ghosts on the Stereo" and her fiery defense of home life on "Kingdom."

"Cry Pretty" finds Underwood at the peak of her powers, and she's determined to use them for good.

II

First-time producer struggles to reveal more personal side

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

For the first time in her career, Carrie Underwood took over co-producing duties on her new album, "Cry Pretty," and co-wrote nine of the 13 tracks. But does it make the collection more personal?

Underwood's career under the spotlight started with "American Idol," and she's a spectacular natural singer with a great ear for songs. But after an injury to her face last fall, she hid from the public for months as the tabloids circled.

She returned this year looking about the same as before and announced this summer she's pregnant with her second child. Now her personal life has become a bit more front and center than before. She's always sung with authentic emotion and drama, but she was more skilled at interpreting the

song than revealing much about herself.

"Cry Pretty" is not the confessional record that her country peers have done really well, as evidenced from the title track that notes she's "not usually the kind to show my heart to the world." But she's pushing herself in new musical directions, teasing parts of her multi-faceted voice with rhythm and tempo that feels like you're hearing her anew.

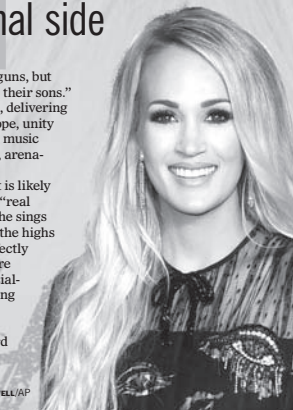
Working with producer David Garcia, who co-wrote the pop country crossover collab "Meant to Be" by Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line, Underwood adds R&B, pop and dance rhythms to songs like "Backsliding" and "End Up With You." On "Low," she sinks into a bluesy country groove that sounds like a perfect vehicle for a duet between Underwood and Chris Stapleton.

However, the country ballad "The Bullet" feels empty with lyrics such as, "You can

blame it on hate, or blame it on guns, but mommas ain't supposed to bury their sons." "Love Wins" is in a similar vein, delivering somewhat vague messages of hope, unity and love for all, but the building music makes better use of her soaring, arena-sized vocals.

She ends the album with what is likely the closest we're going to see of "real Carrie" on "Kingdom," where she sings about scampering children and the highs and lows of a family that's "perfectly imperfect." The song seems more revealing than the others, especially because it touches on her strong Christian faith.

It also shows that she can be relatable when she lets her guard down.



RICHARD SHOTWELL/AP

WEEKEND: MUSIC

**Willie Nelson**

My Way (Sony Legacy)

Willie Nelson is country music personified, but he's no red-headed stranger to the Great American Songbook. On "My Way," the prolific Texan swings and croons through 11 songs associated with Frank Sinatra, with whom he formed an unlikely and undeniable mutual admiration society.

Nelson has been releasing albums at a pace rarely seen these days among major stars, much less 85-year-olds who've been on the road forever. "My Way," Nelson's second album of the year after the reflective "Last Man Standing," is a joy from start to finish.

With "Stardust," his smash 1978 LP, Nelson became an early adherent to the now-ubiquitous crossover interpretation of pop standards and although he's recorded some of these songs before—including opener "Fly Me to the Moon" and one of Sinatra's greatest performances, "One for My Baby (And One More for the Road)"—the right-sized string and horn arrangements led here by Matt Rollings accommodate both Ol' Blue Eyes' world and Nelson's own idiosyncratic interpretations.

"Fly Me to the Moon" gains a slightly more spirited pace than on Nelson's 2009 "American Classic," while "Summer Wind" includes a lyrical Nelson solo on Triggers, that nylon-string Martin guitar of his with an extra hole resulting from years of use.

The backing really shines on "One for My Baby" and Nelson's vocal shows how he is indeed a "kind of poet" even when the song is not his own composition. Nelson's experience lends a special grace to "It Was a Very Good Year" and "Young at Heart," while on "My Way" his phrasing and Mickey Raphael's harmonica (a treat elsewhere, too) provide the album closer with a bluesy intimacy that might make some of those who don't care much for Sinatra's braggadocio and bombast on his own version give the song another chance.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Lucie Silvas, photographed on Sept. 5 in Nashville, embraces a variety of musical inspirations on her new album.

British singer Lucie Silvas finds independence in Nashville

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

British singer-songwriter Lucie Silvas started her career with a successful major label debut in the United Kingdom and writing songs for other British pop acts. After crossing the Atlantic for Nashville, she's found her voice again as a skilled and independent retro pop stylist.

Silvas, born in the U.K. but raised in New Zealand, said that after the second record came out in the U.K. in 2006, she was already feeling like she was moving in a different direction from her music label. She found a new musical community in Nashville, where she's been welcomed by the city's songwriters and artists.

"It felt like running away at first," Silvas said. "What I found that I had either missed or wasn't finding in the U.K. at that time was just a musical community, or a feeling I could get back to writing and just singing songs without feeling like I had to be something, that I had to be on a particular path."

Even as a non-country artist without the backing of a major label, she's been opening for country artists Chris Stapleton, Little Big Town and Miranda Lambert. "E.G.O." is the second record she's put out since moving to Nashville, and she explores pop music's soul and rock origins with lyrics crafted as a seasoned storyteller.

"I love all things '70s," Silvas said during a recent interview at H. Audrey, a clothing boutique owned by Holly Williams, granddaughter of country icon Hank Williams. "With the album, I wanted to bring something like that in. But I don't want to be so throwback that it doesn't feel new and new to me and new to anyone else."

Silvas teamed up with longtime friend and British producer-writer artist Jon Green (James Bay, Kylie Minogue) to draw on various musical inspirations, including Motown, the Beach Boys and Bonnie Raitt. But

Nashville songwriters and musicians are also all over this record, including acclaimed session guitarist Derek Wells, hit country songwriter Natalie Hemby and Silvas' husband, John Osborne of the country duo Brothers Osborne.

"With 'E.G.O.,' suddenly I was at a point where I am still independent and I've toured with these amazing country artists," Silvas said. "Who is it that I am? Who is it that I'm happiest being? I've got a lot of things that I want to draw from, but I want to do something that is truly unique to me. I don't want to worry too much about where this places me because I just want to go in and record songs I love."

The title track, which stands for "Everybody Gets Off," is an "anti-pop pop song," Silvas said. It's a tongue-in-cheek takedown of celebrity culture and egotism in the age of social media.

"It's become so convoluted, having your normal life on social media, and it's really bothered me for a long time and yet I'm completely part of it," Silvas said. "Because there are days when you feel like you're invisible if you're not posting something or you're not being seen. That's a real problem."

Similarly she addresses the pressures of living up to unreal expectations, especially for women, on the song "Black Jeans," a Fleetwood Mac-inspired dreamy rock ballad with harmony vocals.

"I'm not here to keep up with a trend," Silvas said of the meaning of the song. "I'm not here to be judged on my appearance or anything that appears to be a success or failure."

And the album's opener, "Kite," sets the tone for Silvas' new chapter with a foot-stomping track about a woman who can't be tethered by any man.

"I feel like that independent woman a lot of the time because of the circumstances I find myself in musically," Silvas said. "I feel like I've got a great, small team around me that is able to partner with great people just to put this music out on our own terms."

Lucie Silvas

on her new album, "E.G.O."

**Alejandro Escovedo**

The Crossing (Yep Roc)

Drawing up a family tree of Alejandro Escovedo's lengthy career results in a small forest with branches spread out across punk, rock and alt-country. Now 67, he's been in bands like The Nuns, Rank and File and the True Believers; his family includes niece Sheila E., his brothers were in groups like L.A. punk pioneers the Zeroes, and he's released more than a dozen solo albums since his excellent 1992 debut, "Gravity," including three thundering collections produced by David Bowie collaborator Tony Visconti.

Texas-born to Mexican immigrants, Escovedo describes "The Crossing" as saying "more about me than any of my records, without it being a record about me." Nominally, the songs are about a pair of immigrants—Salvo from Italy, Diego from Mexico—who Texan experiences with the American Dream don't quite match their expectations. But mentions of the Zeroes, the Stooges, Johnny Thunders, MC5, the Plugz and other marvels of American culture, as well as U.S. and Mexican writers and poets, put Escovedo in the middle of the story, even if it might not really be him.

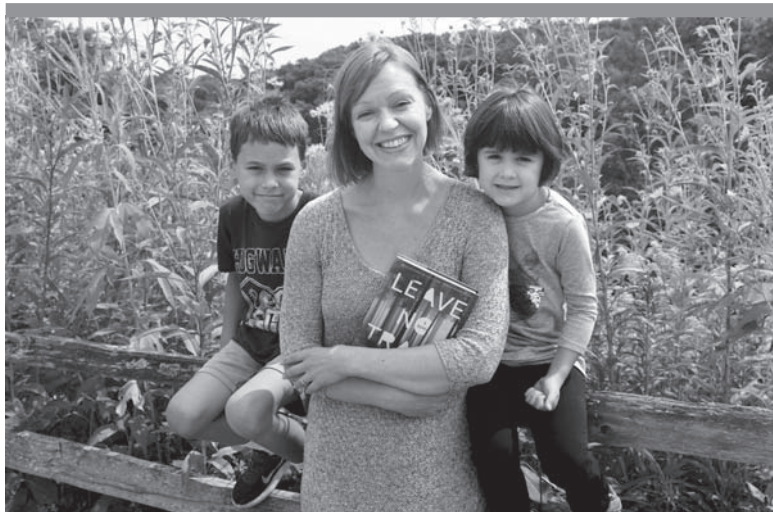
Recorded in Italy with local band Don Antonio, whose leader Antonio Gramentieri co-wrote the album, and with a handful of guests like fellow Texan Joe Ely (excellent on his Warren Zevon-like ballad "Silver City") and MC5 guitarist Wayne Kramer, "The Crossing" has a story that doesn't bode well, even if it claims to have no ending. "If I could make a wish / We'd never gotten into this."

"Sonica U.S.A." rocks mightily, Tex-Mex elevates "Outlaw for You" and the narration on "Rio Navidad," where Diego encounters a retired Texas Ranger at a San Antonio wedding, gives it a powerful emotional kick.

"The Crossing" includes some instrumentals, an Italian lyric and a fluid timeline but its most urgent songs are reflective, passionate and defiant, like Escovedo himself.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press

WEEKEND: BOOKS



JOHN AUTEY/Pioneer Press

Mindy Mejia and her children, Logan, 8, left, and Rory, 6, visit their favorite spot: Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan, Minn.

In the wilds of Minnesota

Author Mindy Mejia explores the relationship between people and place in her new psychological thriller, 'Leave No Trace'

By MARY ANN GROSSMANN
Pioneer Press (St. Paul, Minn.)

“M”ejia remains a writer to watch. That’s Publishers Weekly’s applause for Mindy Mejia’s new psychological thriller, “Leave No Trace.” Booklist’s starred review called the story “brutal, devastating, and utterly riveting.”

“My goal is to bring Minnesota to the world stage,” Mejia said. “There is so much here — culture and diversity, basic decency and sense of community. I write what I would like to read — contemporary, plot-driven books that deliver both entertainment and substance.”

Mejia, 39, lives in Apple Valley with her husband, Philip, their son and daughter, and three orange cats. A slender woman with an endearing smile, Mejia wears her growing fame lightly. Her two previous books — “The Dragon Keeper” and “Everything You Want Me to Be” — were well received nationally, but she’s not as well-known as she should be in Minnesota, where she set her new book.

“Leave No Trace” is the story of Maya Stark, a 23-year-old assistant language therapist working in Duluth’s Congdon Psychiatric Facility, where she had been a patient. Maya’s mother, a geologist who tried to kill herself, had disappeared and her father was often away, scavenging for lost ships beneath Lake Superior.

Maya, who is not the warmest protagonist, is assigned to work with Lucas Blackthorn, a handsome 19-year-old who is famous because he and his father disappeared 10 years earlier in the Boundary Waters and were presumed dead.

“This idea of likability (in characters) intrigues me,” Mejia said. “I think of them as unfriendly, not unlikable. I am looking for that conflict in characters you need to follow for 500 pages. You need to understand their motivation, where they are coming from. In this book, the book is looking back for Maya, abandoned by her mother. Lucas is a more clear-cut victim, so it’s easier to get into him. I am interested in decent but flawed people with an internal moral compass. That’s Maya.”

Maya’s loss of her mother is “sort of” based on Mejia’s own life. “My mom was sick from my birth until I was about 10,” she said. “She had major surgeries and almost died. She’s OK now, but I had that paralyzing fear of abandonment that every child understands. It’s a way for readers to get into Maya.”

Another influence was the real-life stories of the Lykov family, who lived in the remote Siberian wilderness for 40 years, and Ho Van Lang, who lived almost his entire 41 years in a tree house with his father after the U.S. bombed their village in Vietnam.

“I thought, if that had happened here, where would they hide?” Mejia said. “The Boundary Waters came to mind.”

Another benefit of setting her story in the far north is that readers outside Minnesota are fascinated by the vast stretches of wilderness, which Mejia depicts with a perfect sense of place, from the changing color of Lake Superior’s water to the penetrating cold and the steep hills of Duluth.

“My editors think Minnesota is another culture,” Mejia said with a laugh.

Mejia, whose grandparents were Minnesota farmers, was born in Minneapolis. She was always writing stories and novels

as a kid, but she didn’t major in writing or English during her undergraduate years at the University of Minnesota, choosing religious studies instead because “I never imagined I could make writing a career.”

As the daughter of an electrical engineer, she enjoyed numbers and was an accountant for 15 years, but “it was writing, always writing. It’s in my makeup,” she said. “On lunch break at my job, to keep my sanity I would pull up my laptop and dive into another world. In fiction, you have total control.”

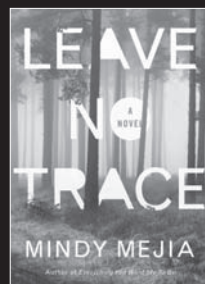
Mindy married Philip Mejia in 2004. Two years later, she enrolled in Hamline University’s MFA writing program. “I needed to get tools to write a novel,” she said.

Mejia kept writing during the years the babies arrived. Her son, Logan, was born in 2010, and her daughter, Rory, in 2012.

Mindy’s debut, “The Dragon Keeper,” was published in 2012. This adult novel is a touching ecological love story in which zookeeper Meg Yancy guards and protects Jata, the Komodo dragon that has been in her care at the Minnesota Zoo since arrival from Indonesia.

In the years between her kids’ births, Mejia was working on what would be her breakout novel, “Everything You Want Me to Be,” published in 2017. It’s a crime thriller about the last high school year of an actress who is found stabbed to death in a crumbling barn. She’s a strong-willed woman who wants to get out of Pine Valley, a twisty story told in multiple voices. Critics loved it.

“That book did amazingly well,” Mejia said. “It’s now in 20 languages, and it got reviews I never dreamed of receiving.”



Leave No Trace

Mindy Mejia

A few short years ago, Maya Stark was a patient at the Congdon Psychiatric Facility just outside Duluth, Minn. Her breakdown was caused by myriad situations, including her mother’s abandonment.

Maya has progressed beyond that time, attended college and now works at the facility as an assistant speech therapist. Although she relates well to her patients, Maya has no friends.

Most of her co-workers refer to her as “that little punk girl.” Maya claims that she feels “something vital in the loneliness, an imperative that I keep the space around me empty and weightless.” She only relates to her father, Brian, who runs a tugging and towing service out of the Duluth and Lake Superior harbors; her boss, Dr. Riya Mehta, who was once her psychiatrist; and her German shepherd, Jasper.

Maya knows she’s unqualified to handle her latest patient — Lucas Blackthorn, a violent 19-year-old who has responded only to Maya since he has been committed. A decade ago, Lucas and his father, Josiah, made headlines when they vanished in the wilds of the massive Boundary Waters along the Canadian border. No sign of either was spotted until Lucas was found burglarizing a camping outfitter store and got into an altercation with the owners.

The reappearance of the young man missing for 10 years puts the Congdon facility — and Maya — under scrutiny with protesters demanding Lucas’ release and with reporters camping outside the facility.

Lucas keeps trying to escape to return to his father, refusing to tell anyone where Josiah is, even Maya. Their connection will help each of them make new discoveries about themselves.

The excellent “Leave No Trace” works well as a look at mental health recovery, surviving in the wild and navigating a media frenzy. The maturation of Maya and Lucas enhances the story as Mejia delves into their backgrounds and provides an intense look at Josiah’s motives for disappearing. The bad decisions each makes are the result of inexperience and naivete. Each has lost a parent, and this deeply affects their lives and actions.

A strong sense of place infuses “Leave No Trace,” especially the expansive Boundary Waters — a place of wild beauty in which a person can get lost, and can “feel the razor gaze of the eagles soaring.”

Oline H. Cogdill/AP

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom”: Three years after the Jurassic World theme park was destroyed when the dinosaurs escaped, the island home of the park is on the verge of being destroyed by a volcano that would create the second extinction for the creatures. Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard) is recruited to mount a campaign to rescue the remaining dinosaurs. Either the Jurassic film franchise is showing its age or the team members bring their lack of originality. No matter which is the major culprit, the final result is little more than a cut-and-paste version of past productions (especially “The Lost World: Jurassic Park”). The movie isn’t a complete waste, especially for those looking for pure escapism. “Jurassic World: Lost Kingdom” has plenty of dinosaur action.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

“Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” is now available on DVD.

“Fahrenheit 451”: Ramin Bahrani’s efforts to adapt Ray Bradbury’s 1953 novel, “Fahrenheit 451,” into a new movie for HBO came with a major obstacle. When Bradbury penned the tale of a future where all books are outlawed and burned, there was no internet, so eliminating the printed word was a less complicated proposition. In writing the screenplay with Amir Naderi, Bhrani had to factor in how Bradbury’s “firemen” could do their job when everyone has access to any book ever printed through the cellphone they carry in their pocket. He gets around those problems and gets some help from Michael B. Jordan (“Black Panther”) as Montag, a young and enthusiastic fireman who begins to question his beliefs as he is exposed more and more to a world where words are so precious to some, they are willing to give their lives to protect them. His emotional turmoil lights a fire under the story.

Also available on DVD:

“Supergirl: Season 3”: Melissa Benoist plays one of Earth’s mightiest heroes in this CW Network series.

“Masterpiece: The Miniaturist”: Anya Taylor Joy stars in this adaptation of Jessie Burton’s best-selling novel.

“Dances”: Robert Pattinson and Mia Wasikowska star in this tale of the West where a simple journey becomes treacherous.

“The Looming Tower”: The events that led to the deadliest terrorist attacks ever to take place on American soil are chronicled in this 10-part drama.

“The Toybox”: Travelers must fight to survive when dealing with a haunted RV.

“The X-Files: Season 11”: Scully (Gillian Anderson) and Mulder (David Duchovny) continue to look for the truth out there.

“The Gifted: Season One”: Mutants must find a way to survive in a world that treats them like inferiors.

“Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Concert: Encore”: Includes 44 performances.

“Murdoch Mysteries: Home for the Holidays”: Detective William Murdoch’s (Yannick Bisson) plans for a quiet holiday turn into a murder investigation.

“MacGyver: Season 2”: Secret government operative uses his talent for unconventional problem-solving to save lives.

“Anne of Green Gables — Fire and Dew”: This is the third installment of the story of a free-spirited teenager on Prince Edward Island.

— Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

Refreshed

Jay Hernandez bringing his own take on ‘Magnum P.I.’

By LUANEE LEE
Tribune News Service

Two and a half years ago, actor Jay Hernandez was about quit. He’d been acting since he was 18 and while he could always wangle some sort of acting job, he wasn’t excited by the work.

“I was ready to walk away from it,” he says. “I had a lot of moments like that because Hollywood is not a meritocracy. You can’t earn your place anywhere. You can get to a place, but you have to constantly fight for that. You’re constantly treading water. And I don’t love jumping through the hoops,” he says, seated on a frieze couch in a coffee bar in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Hernandez had other interests like writing, producing and business. “It was one of those slow periods and there was a moment where I felt I just don’t want to deal with this stuff right now. I was very close to stepping away,” he says.

But a juicy role in “Suicide Squad” landed in his lap, then a part in “Bad Moms,” and a seven-episode run in “Scandal” kept him on the books.

It’s a good thing he kept plugging because two years later, Hernandez landed the role of a lifetime: recreating the part of the winsome Thomas Magnum in CBS’ new version of “Magnum P.I.,” premiering on AFN-Prime on Sept. 25.

Slipping into Tom Selleck’s Hawaiian shirt was no easy trick, admits Hernandez, who grew up in Rosemead, Calif., with two older brothers and a younger sister.

“It was probably a month before this happened, I was just watching TV, flipping through it, and saw ‘Magnum, P.I.’ and thought, ‘Man, I remember watching this when I was a kid.’

“It was Tom on the surf ski riding in a bay somewhere outside of Oahu. And two months later I was doing that exact same thing on the set as Thomas Magnum. So it was one of those very surreal moments,” says Hernandez, who’s wearing a bronze shirt with white curls and Levis.

He was fearful about taking on such an iconic role, he admits. “I wanted to make sure it was going to feel distinct from Tom Selleck in a way because you can’t replace Tom; you can’t do that,” he says.

He wanted the character to be distinctive, yet maintain what he calls “that sort of enigmatic charming thing that Tom had.” “I knew whoever was coming in there would be a lot of criticism, I think ... So I was leery of that. I wanted to make sure the creative people knew that they had to do something a little different.”

Early days

Looking back, Hernandez thinks he was influenced by his older brothers when he was a kid.

“My early teen years were a little tumultuous because of family stuff,” he says. “I had two older brothers who were crazy. I got into a little bit of trouble. I saw what was happening to other people around me and I thought, ‘All right, I don’t want to do that.’ So I went on a different path that in some ways, pursuing acting kept me on the good path,” he says.

His older brother just retired from the Navy after 22 years. “I realized, looking back on it, that him signing up for the military and taking off was about the same time that I really started getting serious about trying to pursue this,” he says.

“My one brother was gone, and my older brother had just gone off to the Navy, and what was I doing? I was trying to figure out what I was going to do with my life. I think him making that decision and being serious about his path and his life, I think probably looking back on it, that definitely had some sort of impact in terms of what I wanted to do with my life.”

Jay Hernandez stars on the reboot of “Magnum P.I.” The TV show starts Sept. 25 on AFN-Prime.

CBS



[Jay Hernandez] was fearful about taking on such an iconic role, he admits.

“I wanted to make sure it was going to feel distinct from Tom Selleck in a way because you can’t replace Tom; you can’t do that.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Is a low-carb diet dangerous?

If you are one of the legions of dieters out there who have been religiously cutting carbs in an attempt to get lean and fit, you may be surprised by a recent study that showed that low-carb diets might not be healthy after all. In fact, they might be unsafe.

By KAREN D'SOUZA ■ *The Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)*

Research presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Germany found that diets very low in carbohydrates might actually increase the risk of premature death over time. Yikes.

The author of the study, Professor Maciej Banach, of the Medical University of Lodz, Poland, said, "We found that people who consumed a low-carbohydrate diet were at greater risk of premature death. Risks were also increased for individual causes of death including coronary heart disease, stroke and cancer. These diets should be avoided."

The study — which has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal — used diet and health data from almost 25,000 people collected through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1999 and 2010, according to Time. The researchers found that over an average of 6.4 years of follow-up,

people who consumed the lowest amount of carbohydrates had a 32 percent higher risk of total mortality, a roughly 50 percent higher risk of dying from vascular diseases and a 36 percent higher risk of dying from cancer, compared to people who ate the most carbs.

As Banach said, "Low-carbohydrate diets might be useful in the short term to lose weight, lower blood pressure and improve blood glucose control, but our study suggests that in the long term they are linked with an increased risk of death from any cause, and deaths due to cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer."

Part of the problem might be that people who eliminate carbs might be pigging out on high-fat foods instead. As Despina Hyde, a registered dietitian at NYU Langone's Weight Management Program, told Time: "When you're not eating carbs, you have to eat something. We tend to eat higher protein and higher fat (on

a low-carb diet)," Hyde says. Plus, "carbohydrates are the only source we have of fiber, and fiber is great for reducing risk of breast cancer, lowering our cholesterol and making us feel full for longer."

Apparently it's possible to have too much or too little carbohydrate in your life.

"These findings bring together several strands that have been controversial," co-author Walter Willett at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health said in a statement that USA Today cited. "Too much and too little carbohydrate can be harmful, but what counts most is the type of fat, protein and carbohydrate."

Although it's not a sexy answer, the best path might well be moderation. Eating carbs is good for us, as long as we are choosing good carbs. Think black beans, fruit, quinoa and whole grains. You can feel free to cut back on stuff like white bread, white pasta and cookies.

Extra oxygen might actually help football players recover, or might be just hot air

By TOM AVRIL

The Philadelphia Inquirer

In these steamy days of late summer and early fall, when large men in pads batter one another on the playing field, some try to speed their recovery on the sidelines by breathing pure oxygen.

Philadelphia Eagles tight end Josh Perkins did it during this year's final preseason game against the New York Jets, when the temperature at 7 p.m. kickoff was a toasty 86 degrees.

Is the practice sound science or hot air?

Some physicians have ridiculed the use of 100 percent oxygen, noting that athletes recover perfectly well by breathing regular air, which is 21 percent oxygen. Few researchers have formally compared the two. But evidence suggests that breathing the pure gas might provide players with a small edge.

In a 2017 review of eight studies on the topic, Canadian researchers found that breathing 100 percent oxygen during recovery seemed to provide a mild boost in subsequent performance — going by such measures as the amount of time people were

able to exercise until reaching exhaustion.

Arsh Dhanota, a sports medicine physician in the University of Pennsylvania health system who was not involved in the review, cautioned that the amounts of recovery time varied widely among the eight studies, making a firm conclusion difficult. Still, he said, pure oxygen might help.

"We can't say definitively, but there appears to be a positive effect," Dhanota said.

David Gealt, a sports medicine physician at the Cooper Bone and Joint Institute in South Jersey, is unconvinced.

"The only place where it may give you some benefit is if you're playing in Mile High Stadium in Denver," where the air is thinner, he said.

A key measure is oxygen saturation: how much oxygen is being carried by the iron-rich proteins in red blood cells called hemoglobin. An indirect reading of this vital statistic can be made with a device on the finger called a pulse oximeter. Values in the high 90s are considered normal, but can drop below 90 percent during intense exercise.

In a 2010 study, researchers measured the oxygen saturation levels in elite athletes

who underwent intense workouts on rowing machines, both with breathing pure oxygen and regular air in between sessions.

The result: When receiving pure oxygen, the athletes rebounded to normal oxygen-saturation levels in 36 seconds, on average, compared with 49 seconds with regular air.

Though the 13-second difference was statistically meaningful, it was nothing to get excited about, said lead author Peter Peeling, an associate professor at the University of Western Australia's School of Human Sciences.

"The premise of the supplemental oxygen is to improve the saturation of the hemoglobin between bouts of exercise. However, the body naturally does this itself, and the time difference between doing it with supplemental oxygen or doing it via breathing ambient air is negligible," he said.

Still, in professional sports, a team might conclude that a 13-second edge is worth it, Dhanota said.

"You're in between plays; there's an intense game going on," he said. "Seconds matter in whether you can get back in the game or not."

Some physicians have ridiculed the use of 100 percent oxygen, noting that athletes recover perfectly well by breathing regular air, which is 21 percent oxygen. But evidence suggests that breathing the pure gas might provide players with a small edge.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Bumps along the DNA road map

Results from ancestry tests can vary, reporter finds

By CHRISTINE WILLMSSEN
The Seattle Times

In the quest to know more about ourselves, some are fortunate enough to scour through black-and-white family photos and listen to stories about ancestors from generations ago. Others hit dead ends because slavery, war or adoption have made it impossible to trace their roots.

Now millions of people are spending money on mail-order DNA tests to discover their genetic makeup as a way of understanding more about their history.

DNA companies like Ancestry.com promise to “uncover your ethnic mix, discover distant relatives, and find new details about your unique family history” with a DNA test.

But how accurate are these tests, and what are the pitfalls of using them to learn about our race, ethnicity and heritage?

I was skeptical of the accuracy of DNA ancestry tests, so I had my own DNA tested by two companies. I chose the popular Utah-based Ancestry.com, which also connects subscribers to distant relatives, and Ohio-based DNA Diagnostic Center, which operates homedna.com.

DNA companies measure a minuscule percentage of the human genome and determine results by comparing someone's DNA to a proprietary group of samples they have collected. Depending on the makeup of those samples, DNA companies will miss some regions and populations of the world and overrepresent others in their pool.

The Seattle Times paid \$199, and I mailed a swab of skin cells from the inside of my mouth to DNA Diagnostic Center.

It measured 144 markers that show genetic differences among four populations: Africans, Eu-

ropeans, East Asians and Native Americans.

According to the results, which are estimates, I am 87 percent Caucasian and 13 percent sub-Saharan African.

This caught me off guard — and it would be just one of many surprises I unearthed during this quest.

Based on what my parents told me, I always thought of myself as a “Heinz 57” kind of woman — with a mix of German, Irish, Scandinavian and Canadian French.

“Persons with 85 percent European and 15 percent African generally exhibit few, if any, physical features characteristic of the African Group, such as dark skin,” states the DNA Diagnostic Center manual.

But if I were one-eighth black, then my father or mother would be an even greater percentage, and two or three generations ago, a relative probably would have been visibly darker.

The 23-page manual offers a lot of caveats about results. In my case, the company said while the “maximum likelihood estimate” is that I’m 13 percent sub-Saharan African, I could also be as low as 3 percent or as high as 23 percent.

I contacted Dr. Michael Baird, chief scientific officer at DNA Diagnostic Center, for more answers.

“I can’t speculate where the 13 percent came from or how far back, but it does show a fair amount of sub-Saharan in your genome,” he said. “But it could mean I was fairly recent, even, or some underlying sub-Saharan on both sides for many generations.”

Born a skeptic, I waited for the Ancestry.com results after spitting in a plastic vial.

The \$99 test analyzes markers of people who best represent each distinct ethnic group in the world.

The results claimed I am 100 percent Caucasian, with 37 percent from Ireland/Scotland/Wales, 28 percent from Europe West (Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg), 19 percent Europe South (Italy and Greece), 10 percent

Europe East, 5 percent Great Britain, 3 percent Finland/Northeast Russia, 3 percent Iberian Peninsula, 2 percent Scandinavia and 1 percent European Jewish.

But I was shocked yet again when, close to publication, Ancestry.com changed its estimates of my ancestry, concluding I was no longer Italian/Greek, Eastern European, Finnish, Iberian or Jewish.

I was a bit disappointed. I always wanted to be part Italian.

“More data and new methods of DNA analysis have given us a better picture of which DNA sequences are — or aren’t — associated with specific world regions. ... New data indicates that a region does not belong in your results,” it stated.

Ancestry.com had no comment, but the website stated it shrinks and enlarges some regions and claims the estimates could change again.

For example, now it estimates I am mostly from Ireland and Scotland, 26 percent from Germanic Europe, 9 percent from France and 4 percent from Sweden.

I’ve never heard family members say our distant relatives came from Great Britain. And U.S. census records show several of my relatives as recent as my great grandmother reported being born in Finland.

Jennifer Raff, University of Kansas assistant professor of anthropology, said DNA companies estimate who you are most closely related to, but migration might have affected where your ancestors actually lived.

Results should be carefully interpreted, she warned:

“Don’t derive your identity from DNA.”

I believe Ancestry.com’s updated DNA results, I’m mostly English or Welsh, something its own genealogy website and my family records, at this point, don’t support.

And while it’s unlikely I’m sub-Saharan, it’s not impossible. Frankly, I’m not sure what to believe.

I do know what I’m left wanting to know more.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



The lame duck in the chicken coop

In my 23 years as a military spouse, we lived in base housing four times, for a total of 11 years. Although living among sterile government buildings enclosed by fences sometimes made me feel like an inmate in an asylum, the social culture in military housing more closely parallels the behavior of chickens in a coop.

Of course, no one ever threw feed corn at me. I never laid an egg, or molted my feathers. However, people who live on post are constrained by a social “pecking order” that can make military spouses feel like they live in a cage full of clucking hens, strutting roosters and peeping chicks.

Every time we moved into a base house or stairwell apartment, I became cognizant of the unspoken hierarchy in the neighborhood. As a new arrival, I took time to establish a new home with my family (“feather the nest”). But after my husband, Francis (“the rooster”), went to work (“flew the coop”) and the kids (“the chicks”) went off to school, loneliness inevitably set in.

I found myself wandering the base in search of a flock to huddle with. Sure, there were always hens everywhere — and a few stay-at-home roosters, I wouldn’t want to ruffle any feathers — but I soon realized that I was at the bottom of the pecking order. I knew I would have to walk on eggshells before I could roost with the established military spouses on base.

Careful not to count my chickens before they hatched, I got my ducks in a row and laid the foundation for my social acceptance into the flock. I watched the other spouses lay a hawk, waiting for right opportunity to introduce myself. Sometimes the hens took me right under their wings, but quite often, my desperation made me seem crazy as a loon, and establishing friendships took time.

It wasn’t overly easy, but I never chickened out. Usually, by the end of my first year, I became an integral part of the gaggle, clucking away as we walked our chicks to school, hatching plans for shopping trips, and cackling about our wattles and chicken fat.

By the end of my second year, I was securely perched at a comfortable elevation in the social pecking order, as proud as a peacock. As new chickens entered the coop, it was clear to them that my friends and I ruled the roost.

Frankly, we got downright cocky.

But then, toward the end of every tour, my family would receive new orders telling us to take wing to our next duty station. Thoughts of moving would leave me a little wistful and reflective. I found myself pondering weighty ideas such as, “Why did the chicken cross the road?” and “Who came first, the chicken or the egg?”

This melancholy state would compel me to seek the comfort and companionship of the other hens in my coop, but alas! I discovered that, as an outbound hen, I’d slipped to the bottom of the pecking order again! Did I do something wrong? Do I have egg on my face? Had I become an albatross around someone’s neck?

My pea-sized brain realized, “You silly goose, you’re the lame duck in this chicken coop.” I was no longer a contender in the social order because I was leaving. My friends began to look for my replacement in our bunco group and book club, and I heard them clucking about plans for a girls’ trip after our move. Clearly, the other hens didn’t want to invest valuable time further incubating our friendship.

As the lame duck, I had to understand that it wasn’t personal. There was nothing to crow about; the sky wasn’t falling. It was a bitter pill to swallow (although it tasted strangely like chicken), but I had to accept that it was just the way things worked.

I had to stop myself, cold turkey, from brooding over my social status. Instead, I offered each of my five friends a peck on the cheek, bid them a final cock-a-doodle-doo, and flew away. As graceful as a swan, as wise as an owl, as happy as a lark, and as free as a bird.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

“UH, WHAT?”

BY JOEL FAGLIANO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Like a bull in a china shop

7 Blue

11 Band whose songs are featured in a hit 2001 musical and 2018 movie

15 Tube tops

19 Where Hemingway wrote “The Old Man and the Sea”

20 Instrument whose name sounds like a rebuke of Obama’s dog

21 Case load?

22 River that formed an extension of the Mason-Dixon line

23 One who’s just moved from Portland?

26 Bit of baseball gear

27 “Jeez, I heard you already!”

28 Number

29 Game played with a dog

30 Peak

31 Tennis great who wrote the 2009 tell-all “Open”

32 Major science journal

33 Satchel for a guy

35 Convert a morgue worker into a spy?

37 Google ____

38 Pre-euro currency

39 Smooch

40 Leave go/smacked

41 Common plural verb

42 Staple of many a “Real Housewives” episode

44 One of the Leewards

48 LeBron basketball sneaker, e.g.?

51 Foe in “Wonder Woman”

55 ____

56 Ready for the recycling bin

57 Field trip chaperone

59 Surrender

60 Celebrity chef Oliver

61 Hunger for

62 Will of “Arrested Development”

64 Determined to do

65 Flower said to cover the plains of Hades

68 Brand of 33-Down

69 Intense blowback against a signature Trump policy proposal?

72 Large mobile devices, to use a modern portmanteau

74 Hair net

75 Amazon threat

76 Muppet eagle

79 Highest draft category

80 Garbage barge

81 Tour de France setting

82 Bad person to get paired with for a class assignment?

84 Bender

89 “Present!”

90 Like more

91 Gulf mogul

92 Rulers during the Time of Troubles

93 Jewish mysticism

94 Harmonized

98 Triple-A requests

99 Nickname for a superserious congressman?

101 Trainer of Ray in “The Last Jedi”

102 Eager

103 Fixtures in every Vegas casino

104 Ontario city across the river from Buffalo, for short

105 Craftsy online store

106 Cay

107 For takeout

108 Exemplar of cruelty

DOWN

1 Follower of “ah-ah-ah”

2 Fun adventure

3 Colored layer

4 Hungarians, by another name

5 Noses around

6 Northerner

7 One of the Gilmore Girls

8 Old sports org. with the Kentucky Colonels

9 U.S. food giant

10 Suck-up

11 Red with embarrassment

12 Fad toy of the 1990s

13 Tendency

14 What’s better when it’s fine?

15 Awaken

16 Yellowfin

17 Workers who are always retiring?

18 “Take that!”

24 Strain

25 Tweet, e.g.

29 Language of Omar Khayyam’s “Rubāiyāt”

31 Glows

32 Caution on an airplane wing

33 Dip for mozzarella sticks

34 Affecting radically

35 x

36 Biceps exercise

37 Attack on a big scale

38 Uncool

42 Gig for an aspiring electronic musician

43 Root word?

44 Citation

45 What “...” may represent

46 What “#” means in chess notation

47 Slim

49 Surrendered

50 “Take a hike!”

52 Like an uncorrupted file

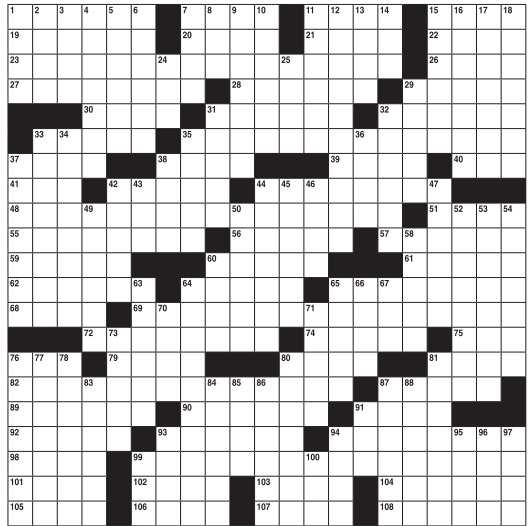
53 Academy Awards prop

54 Popular Belgian brews, informally

58 Hurt

60 Ballet jump

63 Music genre at a rave



- 64 Provider of green juice?

65 Bother

66 Put away

67 Vietnamese broth-and-noodles soup

70 “Yeah, right”

71 Academy Awards prop

73 Garden toilers

76 Saliva

77 Words from a T.S.A. agent before a pat-down

78 Punk rock hairstyles

80 Guarantee

81 U.S.P.S. package status

83 Purchase at a sports stadium

84 Sophisticated

85 How whiskey is often served

86 Financially solvent

87 Blue man group?

88 Something made to be destroyed

91 Where soccer was invented: Abbr.

93 Hitchcock triple feature?

94 Should that be the case

95 “Hey ____” (start of a phone voice command)

96 R&B great Redding

97 A bit of ‘disputin’ from Putin?

99 Chairlift item

100 Clickable tag on BuzzFeed beside “LOL” and “WTF”

GUNSTON STREET



“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com. Online: gunstonstreet.com.

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FACES



JEFF TURNER/AP

Chris Pratt — during an Aug. 14 interview at the Fellow Bar in Los Angeles — met with disabled athletes as part of the nonprofit group Achilles International and surprised them with the news that Michelob Ultra will sponsor them in the New York City Marathon.

On fitness & faith

Chris Pratt talks about his routine and his authenticity

By RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press

When Chris Pratt is running his fastest, he has a tendency to fall.

The “Guardians of the Galaxy” and “Jurassic World” star broke a femur growth plate as a kid, leaving him less than confident in his sprinting abilities — and a bit self-conscious about some action scenes.

“My leg grew in a little funny. So when I run, I run a little crooked. And if I run at top speed, there’s a high likelihood I will fall down,” he said. “My high school

football highlight tape was all just images of me falling down midfield, like I just tripped over my shoe laces or something. So that’s always a little bit of a concern for me.”

Pratt discussed running in an interview with the AP after meeting at a bar with seven disabled athletes, part of the nonprofit group Achilles International. He surprised them with the news that they’re being sponsored in the New York City Marathon by Michelob Ultra. The 39-year-old actor, a spokesman for the beer brand, talked to AP about his passion for fitness, his religion, and his admiration for Tom Cruise. The following remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What do you get out of meeting people like this?

Fitness is a lifestyle. And I think it’s a great common denominator. So you can sit me down with anybody if they have that portion of their life. We always have something in common. That makes this brand a good fit for me and makes this type of experience with Achilles International a really good fit for me. It’s hard enough to do a marathon or to do a triathlon. But to do it when you have physical limitations and disabilities, it’s pretty awe-inspiring.

What’s the fitness routine when you’re at the farm?

At the farm (Pratt’s property in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington state), there is actually a fitness club in town. So I go there. But I do a lot of biking and running there, and ocean swimming. ... For me, it really clears my mind. Sound body, sound mind. I’m an actor, so I don’t have that kind of job where I can just shut my mind off and do physical labor. I think that’s what I was probably genetically made for, you know? I should be moving refrigerators or something. But now I’m doing a job that really isn’t that physically demanding. So having something that I can just shut my mind off and do physically every day is good for me.

Running on screen, who is your top person for that?

Oh, Tom Cruise. “Mission: Impossible” — he ran across London, across bridges, over buildings. Yeah, Tom is a great runner. He did all his own jumping, he was flying the helicopter, he really was like — oh, if there’s a question of whether or not I’m the best at this, let me put that question to bed. He’s the best.

Is that a career goal, to be able to be doing that kind of thing when you’re 50-plus?

One of the career goals that I’ve based on Tom Cruise is his reputation as being a really nice, positive guy who works hard. I’ve never actually met him, but I would like — if you’re going to leave a legacy, it’d be nice to have it be that people thought you were nice and easy to work with and you worked hard. I think that’s pretty cool.

At recent awards show appearances, you went out on stage and talked publicly about your faith. Is it an especially important time to do that?

I don’t know that I am so much more motivated by where the world is, or if it’s just what I’m feeling called to do right now. I think it’s a combination of both things. ... That kind of a message, it might not be for everybody. But there is a group of people for whom that message is designed. And nothing fills my soul more than to think that maybe some kid watching that would say, ‘Hey, I’ve been thinking about that. I’ve been thinking about praying. Let me try that out.’ That’s like the only way I feel like I can repay what has essentially been a giant gift in my life.

Does it feel like a risk sometimes in Hollywood?

No, not at all. ... I think that there’s this narrative that exists out there that Hollywood is anti-Christian or anti-religious, but it’s just not the case. They are kind of not anti-anything. They are kind of pro whatever is authentic to you. And I like that. Because it’s authentic for me to be pro-Christian, pro-Jesus. That’s my thing. I like it. And I’ve never had anyone try to shame me, to my face. Maybe they go say it behind my back. But if that’s the case, go ahead. You can say whatever you want about me — to my face or behind my back. I’m not going to change.

Chevy Chase rips ‘Saturday Night Live’ as ‘the worst ... humor in the world’

By RACHEL DESANTIS
New York Daily News

He’s Chevy Chase — and he sure is no fan of “Saturday Night Live.”

The famously crutchy comedian, 74, unleashed a torrent of criticism on the current state of the sketch show that launched his career back in the 1970s, and threw in some special jabs at series creator and producer Lorne Michaels.

“First of all, between you and me and a lampost, jeez, I don’t want to put down Lorne or the cast, but I’ll just say, maybe off the record, I’m amazed that Lorne has gone so low. I had to watch a little of it, and I just couldn’t ... believe it,” Chase said in an interview with The Washington Post.

The show, which in recent seasons has played largely into politics by mocking the Trump administration, has maintained steady ratings — not that that means anything to Chase. “That means a whole generation of [crapheads] laughs at the worst ... humor in the world,” he said. “You know what I mean? How could you dare give that generation worse [crap] than they already have in their lives? It just drives me nuts.”

Chase was one of the show’s original stars when it premiered in 1975. He served as the original Weekend Update anchor before leaving the show in the middle of season

two. “I’d have to say that after the first two years, it went downhill,” Chase said. “Why am I saying that? Because I was in it? I guess. That’s a horrible thing to say. But certainly I never had more fun. I really loved to do it and enjoyed it. I didn’t see the same fun thing happening to the cast the next year.”

“Saturday Night Live” has produced some major stars. But not all managed to tickle Chase’s funny bone. He thinks Will Ferrell as George W. Bush was “just not funny,” and that while he liked Tina Fey, he didn’t understand what “all the folderol was about.” Chase did praise Kristen Wiig (“I liked her a lot”) and Eddie Murphy (“I thought Eddie Murphy was funny”).

J Balvin leads Latin Grammy noms, 1 with Beyonce

Reggaeton star J Balvin received eight Latin Grammy Award nominations Thursday, including two for record of the year, one for album of the year and one for song of the year with Beyonce for their hit version of “Mi gente,” also featuring Willy William. Spanish sensation Rosalia is next with five nominations.

Balvin, from Colombia, got two nominations for record of the year, for “Mi gente” with William and “X” with Nicky Jam, and

an album of the year nod for “Vibras,” a production he decided to do all-in-Spanish. His nomination with Beyonce is up for best urban fusion/performance.

Rosalia is nominated for record and song of the year for “Malamente,” a hit that combines flamenco and trap. It also got nods for best urban fusion/performance and best short form music video.

For album of the year, Balvin competes with an eclectic group of established and rising artists that includes Pablo Alboran (“Prometo”), Chico Buarque (“Caravanas”), Jorge Drexler (“Salvavidas de hielo”), David Aguilar (“Sigue”), Kany Garcia (“Soy yo”), Natalia Lafourcade (“Musas, un homenaje al folklore latinoamericano en manos de Los Macorinos, Vol. 2”), Luis Miguel (“Mexico por siempre”), Monsieur Perine (“Encanto tropical”) and Rozalen (“Cuando el rio suena ...”).

The 19th Latin Grammys will be Nov. 15 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Other news

■ American filmmaker Cary Joji Fukunaga will be director of the next James Bond movie, producers announced Thursday. Michael G. Wilson, Barbara Broccoli and star Daniel Craig said the still-untilled

Bond 25 will start filming at London’s Pinewood Studios on March 4, and will be released Feb. 14, 2019. Fukunaga, 41, is the first American director in the series, which began in 1962 with “Dr. No.”

■ “Black Panther” director Ryan Coogler is joining LeBron James and the “Space Jam 2” team. James’ production company SpringHill Entertainment tweeted Wednesday that Coogler will produce the sequel to the 1996 movie, “Random Acts of Flyness” creator Terence Nance will direct James, and Bugs Bunny, in the film.

■ Focus Features will release the big-screen installment of “Downton Abbey” in North America on Sept. 20, 2019, the distributor announced on Wednesday. Universal Pictures International will debut the film internationally a week earlier.

■ A New York judge has dismissed charges against Lyle Schreiber for allegedly attacking a local photographer while the actor was filming the popular Showtime series “Ray Donovan.”

■ Arthur Mitchell, who broke barriers for African-Americans in the 1950s as a ballet dancer with the New York City Ballet and who would go on to become a driving force in the creation of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, died. He was 84. Mitchell died Wednesday, according to his niece.

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OPINION

Digital discourse and the scourge of anonymity

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special To The Washington Post

The many benefits of the internet age are significantly offset by its biggest drawback: the acceptance of anonymity, including on the digital platforms of most respected news outlets.

Granted, I'm old. I started out when the only ways readers could respond to newspaper articles or commentaries was with a letter to the editor, which mandated that writers provide a name, address and phone number so we could verify their identities.

Today, many stories and opinion pieces are almost immediately followed online by hundreds or thousands of comments from readers using sobriquets that conceal who they really are. Cable news shows highlight tweets from viewers using silly handles. The once inviolate insistence on accountability has been obliterated. Newspapers still run letters, but in the digital age, the practice seems like a nod to a bygone era. It is in this atmosphere that the vaunted New York Times found it defensible to publish the already famous commentary by an anonymous "senior official in the Trump administration" whose identity was being protected because his or her "job would be jeopardized" otherwise.

It is discouraging that a major media outlet would excuse cowardice — that is the right word — under the cloak of anonymity. Because his or her job would be jeopardized? Please. Every public official, every spokesperson, every television or radio commentator and every newspaper columnist risks their jobs every time they utter an opinion. The risk of retribution — lawsuits, advertiser boycotts, ridicule, harm to reputation — is what keeps, and has always kept, expressed opinion somewhere between the lines of responsibility.

Had Roseanne Barr tweeted about Valerie Jarrett under a pseudonym, she would be ready to launch the second season of

It is discouraging that a major media outlet would excuse cowardice — that is the right word — under the cloak of anonymity.

her rebooted television show rather than sitting on the sidelines while the rest of the cast trudges on. Conversely, stirring quotes of patriotism mean nothing without their source. Suppose President John F. Kennedy had said, "we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty — but don't quote me on that." The allegations that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh committed sexual assault while in high school didn't gain much traction until the woman making the claim agreed to go on the record. Anonymity carries little credibility.

When I wrote columns on this subject for various local newspapers over the years, someone without fail would defend anonymity using the example of Benjamin Franklin, who wrote letters to the New-England Courant under the pseudonym of "Silence Dogood." If Franklin did it, it's justifiable, they argued. But Franklin resorted to the tactic only after his brother, the publisher, refused to print the missives under his little brother's real name.

Once the digital age arrived, the newspaper companies for which I worked, hungry for new revenue, adopted the same practice as others. I was often asked by local readers why we permitted anonymous posts, and could offer only the weakest of excuses — because everyone else does it. If everyone jumped off a cliff...

President Donald Trump is often blamed for the lowering of public discourse in

our country, but his contributions pale in comparison to the proliferation of the unaccountable, irresponsible and often vile comments that appear on the digital platforms of so many of our most respected news outlets.

I am not opposed to the promise of anonymity in the cause of pursuing important truths. The use of anonymous sources to provide important information necessary to advance the public's understanding of events is often crucial. But this practice was once rare and usually involved long discussions among top editors; today, it's grossly abused for such trivial nonsense as telling us what mood the president was in on Tuesday.

Such was the case with the piece published by the Times, whose author advanced no new information but did manage to show an amazing lack of concern for fellow administration officials, all of whom were put under a cloud of suspicion and forced into the unenviable position of having to deny authorship. Thanks for nothing.

At least one generation of Americans has grown up knowing nothing but a world in which it is deemed acceptable to think up a fake name, log on to the World Wide Web and begin hurling insults. It is indefensible, as was the Times' decision to jump on the bandwagon in an even bigger display of recklessness.

"We believe publishing this essay anonymously is the only way to deliver an important perspective to our readers," wrote Times editors. No, there was another way, a way that involved getting someone on the record — someone accountable and identifiable, even at the risk of his or her job. If something is truly worth saying, it is worth the risk that accountability matters.

One whole generation may be lost, but the next deserves to grow up understanding why accountability matters.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

Poland's 'Fort Trump' offer sets dangerous precedent

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY

Bloomberg Opinion

Polish President Andrzej Duda's offer to call a military base "Fort Trump" if the U.S. agrees to set one up in his country was, of course, a joke — but not entirely.

For Poland, President Donald Trump's transactional approach to security alliances is an opportunity to achieve its long-held strategic goal of establishing a permanent American military presence on its territory.

If it works out on the terms Duda offered Trump, the deal will set an unwelcome precedent for other U.S. allies — but it may also save U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars.

"The president offered us much more than \$2 billion to do this, and so we're looking at it," Trump said at a joint press conference with Duda. "We're looking at it from the standpoint of, No. 1, military protection for both countries, and also cost."

Trump has a habit of throwing big numbers around. That he, and not Duda, mentioned the \$2 billion offer makes the number suspect, especially as Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak has since denied that any specific amounts had been discussed.

But Trump wasn't exactly improvising. In a May paper, the Polish Defense Ministry said the government would offer as much as \$2 billion to build the necessary infrastructure for stationing a U.S. armored division in Poland. Back then, Kay

Bailey Hutchison, U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, said the idea wasn't even on the table.

Trump's language on Tuesday was very different. Duda had offered him what he likes: money and gold letters spelling his name.

Two billion dollars is both a lot and not much. It's a lot compared with the \$1 billion the German government has contributed over 10 years toward maintaining the U.S. military's presence there. It also amounts to a sizable chunk of Poland's \$11.1 billion of annual defense spending.

Marek Swierczynski, a security analyst at the Warsaw think tank Polityka Insight, says the U.S. base can't be funded from this existing budget — and the government could ask people to pitch in with contributions. He told me the project is that important for Poland, which realizes that it can't defend itself effectively without inviting U.S. troops. In that context, \$2 billion may be a small price for the geopolitical security of a permanent U.S. presence. "It would mean moving the line of defense and the border of the West 1,000 kilometers to the east," Swierczynski says.

It's also not a huge amount relative to what the U.S. spends on its military bases. In his 2015 book, "Base Nation: How U.S. Military Bases Abroad Harm America and the World," David Vine estimated the number of U.S. military bases of all kinds at 800 and their annual running cost at \$71.8 billion, not counting the cost of keep-

ing troops and bases in war zones such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

A new big base in Poland would likely increase that figure regardless of Duda's contribution. But if it takes up the Polish offer, the U.S. could hope to cut spending in the future. A president for more burden-sharing would be set.

By framing the matter as plainly as he did — "You come, we pay," in the words of Swierczynski — Duda took the risk of displeasing fellow NATO allies, who may be asked to follow suit or face a wifing U.S. commitment. But they may have little choice but to adopt this transactional approach.

The prospects of a European Union-based security alliance, which both Germany and France would like to establish because of concerns about the reliability of the U.S. military guarantee, are vague. Trump's demands aren't, and yielding to them means preserving a status quo that has worked for decades.

Of course, Trump may not be in office long enough to make the decision to station U.S. troops in Poland. But here Duda isn't taking much of a risk. His country won't give up on its all-important project after Trump is gone. It will just tailor its pitch for a permanent military presence to his successor.

Leonid Bershidsky is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering European politics and business. He was the founding editor of the Russian business daily Vedomosti and founded the opinion website Slon.ru.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Bad aim on Second Amendment

The Florida Times-Union

The ongoing debate over guns in America has led some to vociferously call for abolishing the Second Amendment.

That's just not wise thinking. There are common-sense restrictions on guns that fall within the scope of the Second Amendment. So there's no need to even consider abolishing it.

Nevertheless, calls for abolishing the Second Amendment are coming from respected figures such as retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. And a new poll shows that about 20 percent of Americans favor repealing the Second Amendment.

In reality, that probably shouldn't be a surprising statistic. There are actually Americans, after all, who regularly support restrictions on speech that would not be allowed under the First Amendment.

So, of course, there will always be a fringe minority out there yapping for scrapping the Second Amendment.

Or the Third Amendment.
Or the Fourth Amendment.
Or the ...

You get the point. Fortunately, the anti-Second Amendment extremists have little support in Washington.

The fact is abolishing the Second Amendment isn't necessary because the Supreme Court has already set some reasonable parameters. Large magazines and the Supreme Court's 2008 Heller decision that underlined an individual's right to bear arms, the court also noted that right wasn't unlimited — and that certain classes of "dangerous and unusual" weapons could be limited. The court has also allowed limits on assault weapons, large magazines and the number of weapons that can be stockpiled.

That's why instead of abolishing the Second Amendment, the focus should be on reducing the ability of Americans to use military-style weapons to kill innocent fellow citizens. The focus should be on restricting the ability of mentally ill people — and those with histories of domestic violence — to have easy access to firearms; clearly more safeguards must be built in to immediately "red-flag" such Americans whenever they try to purchase weapons.

There are certain aspects of support for that kind of proactive approach. In a recent poll, 85 percent even voiced support for letting the police take guns away from people deemed dangerous — and at least five states have such laws in place.

Gun advocates like to criticize the 1994 federal assault weapons ban for its emphasis on cosmetic features: they deride it as a naïve and unrealistic law designed by people who know nothing about guns. For example, the 1994 law defined assault weapons based on such features as pistol grips.

In an opinion piece, Palm Beach County Commissioner Thomas Gabor said such poor standards of definition have undermined attempts to strictly regulate assault weapons because "the gun industry can easily make cosmetic modifications to skirt the regulation."

Gabor has proposed a more realistic definition of assault weapons that takes an objective, scientific approach based on lethality — as well as relevant factors like caliber, muzzle velocity, rate of fire, capacity and design flexibility.

That's a reasonable idea. And it's a far more palatable idea than the harebrained suggestion that it's time for America to abolish the Second Amendment.



Volkswagen says it will stop making its iconic Beetle in July. The Beetles pictured were part of the annual gathering of the "Beetle club" in Yafum, Israel, last year.

Don't repeat treatment of Hill

The Baltimore Sun

Stop us where this sounds familiar: A woman comes forward to allege sexual misconduct by a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her credibility and motives are attacked. She is invited to give testimony about some of the most painful moments of her life before a panel of unsympathetic men. And many simply dismiss her claims because she did not come forward sooner.

That's what was happening in October of 1991 when Anita Hill alleged pervasive sexual harassment by her former boss, Clarence Thomas. And it's what's happening now after Christine Blasey Ford went public with her sexual assault allegations. Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her during a high school party in the early 1980s.

One of the senators who mistreated Hill is still on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and he hasn't changed much. Sen. Orrin Hatch, of Utah, claims to welcome further investigation into Ford's accusations but in the same breath casts the matter in a political light, claiming it was orchestrated by Democrats to deny Kavanaugh a seat on the court.

Twenty-seven years later, amid the #MeToo movement that has forced a reckoning about how little has changed since Hill's testimony, we can do better. Hill, now a law professor at Brandeis, has some excellent ideas for how. In an op-ed in The New York Times, she suggests a number of steps, including handing the initial investigation of the complaint not to the Senate, with its partisan interests and high pressure, but to an independent panel expert in such cases. We shouldn't leave the truth to the mercy of people whose main concern isn't the truth or fairness but the midterm elections. Hill also urged the committee to take more time with the matter than it now plans. If the standard was two weeks of consideration in 1991, how can it be just one in 2018?

Hill's final admonition, that we should call Kavanaugh's accuser by her name, is particularly poignant. What (political cartoonist) KAL depicted in 1991 was a group of thugs intent on treating Hill like a political prop to be beaten down in the name of Thomas' confirmation. A generation later, we can't treat Christine Blasey Ford the same way.

Florence: Unity in tragedy

GateHouse Media North Carolina Coastal Group

How much destruction and misery can one region endure?

It's almost unfathomable that less than two years after Hurricane Matthew — the recovery from which is far from complete — much of Coastal North Carolina once

again is underwater, roads are impassable and thousands of homes and other structures lie in ruins from the force winds and unrelenting rains of Florence.

As of Monday afternoon, the intense rain seemed to have ended as Florence inched across the Carolinas. And although about 500,000 customers remained without power in North Carolina, electric service was being restored in many areas, providing welcome relief in hot, dark homes and easing the demand for gasoline needed to run generators.

Unfortunately, that's about all the good news we can muster at this point, except for, of course, what the elder President Bush referred to as the "thousand points of light" — the people from all walks of life and working in all sorts of capacities who are doing what they can to help their communities and to help each other. For every report of looting or some other bad behavior we've read about, we've seen a hundred documenting neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, and workers both private and public going beyond the call of duty to help those in need and, in some cases, save lives.

Down the road there will be time to look back at the response to Hurricane Florence and decisions made in the past that might be making Coastal North Carolina more vulnerable to tropical storms. But for now we should stay focused on immediate needs and feed off the spirit of the tens of thousands of people who are helping us weather yet another devastating storm. We should all offer them our sincere thanks and help them in any way necessary.

Let's all commit ourselves to replacing the floodwaters of Hurricane Florence with a flood of patience, goodwill and a spirit of cooperation. It's the one thing each of us can do to ease the heavy burdens we all are carrying.

Declassification motives clear

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump has demanded the immediate declassification of portions of an order allowing the surveillance of former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page, text-message records from several of Trump's chief whipping boys at the FBI and interview records with Bruce Ohr, a senior Justice Department official. The White House and the president's enablers in Congress claim the release is about transparency and exposing wrongdoing in law enforcement. The real goal is obvious: Dredge up more "evidence" that the Russia investigation is the witch hunt Trump insists it is and that senior Justice Department officials have conspired against him.

Aside from the obvious abuse of presidential power in a matter implicating himself, and his continuing shredding of norms

essential to law enforcement, there is a likely flaw in Trump's strategy. If experience is any guide, the new material will do more to undercut rather than advance the narrative about an anti-Trump conspiracy at the FBI.

That is what happened when Trump forced the release of the application in which federal officials asked for permission to surveil Page. House Republicans insisted it showed that judges had been misled about the source of some of the information in the application; in fact, it showed that the judges had been told that the source was biased. No matter to Trump or his spinners. Then, as now, they picked out and warp individual bits to suit their version of the Russia story, the one that trashes people who have devoted their lives to serving the country and that erodes faith in federal law enforcement.

One such victim is Ohr, whose mistreatment at the hands of the president has been particularly nasty. The Justice Department official interacted with Christopher Steele, the former British spy who, during the 2016 campaign, created a dossier of allegations against Trump. The dossier, and whatever else Steele was hearing from his network at the time, was of limited use to the FBI. Yet Trump has threatened to revoke Ohr's security clearance and appears determined to publicly humiliate him.

It is depressingly ironic that Trump, a man who won the presidency, in part, by inflating a story about how Hillary Clinton, his Democratic opponent, could not handle sensitive information, is in turn abusing his declassification authority. "There are very good reasons that some of these documents were so restricted that very few members (of Congress) ever had access to them," a spokesperson for Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., who has reviewed the documents, told us. "If released unredacted or insufficiently redacted, the documents would clearly identify sources and methods and potentially put the lives of individuals who have helped the United States at risk."

At end, celebrate a Bug's life

Chicago Sun-Times

There has been a terrible death in the family for baby boomers: the beloved Volkswagen Beetle.

Volkswagen has announced it will quit making the Beetle next year, shutting down production of a car that debuted in 1930s Nazi Germany but became a counterculture icon for America's hippie generation.

At one point, Beetles sold in the hundreds of thousands every year. That was back in the '60s and '70s, when VW "Bugs" putt-putted down streets everywhere, in powder blue and vivid orange, candy-apple red and taxicab yellow, even a few in purple.

The rear-mounted engine gave you just a little more horsepower than a lawnmower, on it you could. That engine had to heat the car in winter, too, and it did, though often not until you got to where you were going.

Some early models had a flower vase, typically mounted on the dashboard as the perfect flower child accessory. Volkswagen ended the vase as a standard feature when it redesigned the Beetle in the 1990s.

Best of all, the 10.6 gallon tank could be filled up for less than \$10, even during the energy crisis of the 1970s.

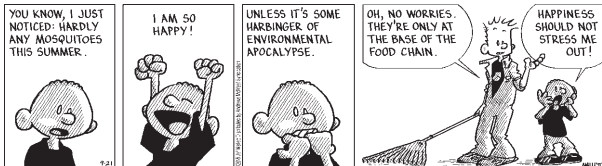
In 1968 — a turbulent year when Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were shot to death — the Beetle broke out during the Democratic Convention in the movie "The Love Bug" featured a Beetle racing car named Herbie. Sales peaked at 423,000 Beetles that year.

Owners of classic Beetles, take note: Models in mint condition are selling for up to \$200,000. So if you own one. Once the Beetle is gone for good, who knows what price wealthy, nostalgic boomers might pay?

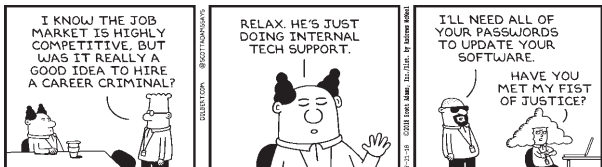
Volkswagen President and CEO Heinrich J. Weoben, however, seemed to leave room for a change of heart: Could the Beetle be again, cool as hell?

"Never say never," he said.

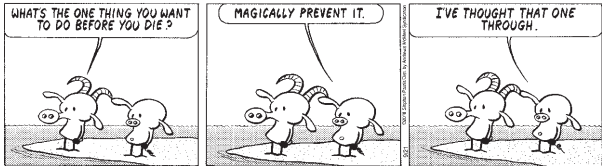
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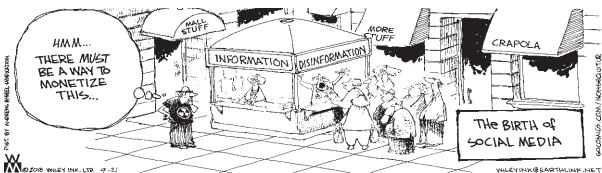
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Pearls Before Swine



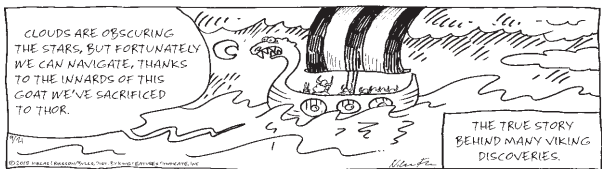
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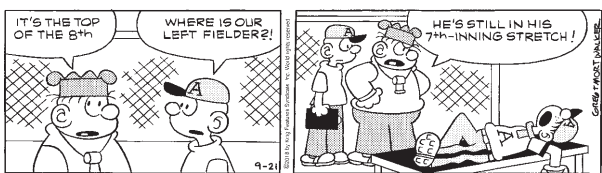
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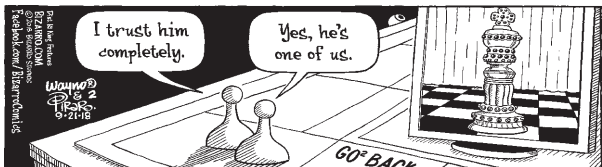
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 911 responder
- 2 Man-mouse link
- 3 Hopping mad
- 4 Sign before Virgo
- 5 Young dog
- 6 "Olympia" artist
- 7 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 8 Leader of the pack
- 9 Calendar abbr.
- 10 Pale purple
- 11 Trace
- 12 Just out
- 13 Casual talk
- 14 Yule fuel
- 15 Chopping spree?
- 16 Lifeline
- 17 Filled fully
- 18 Target at a fiesta
- 19 Sushi fish
- 20 Alphabet quartet
- 21 Saucer-shaped instrument
- 22 45 Salon jobs
- 23 "Humburg"
- 24 Postal delivery, informally
- 25 Gardner of film
- 26 Monte —
- 27 Spell-off
- 28 Gents
- 29 Signed
- 30 Away from NNE
- 31 In the style of

DOWN

- 1 Macaroni shape
- 2 "Thank you, Henri"
- 3 Civil wrongs
- 4 October birthstone
- 5 Judge's decision
- 6 Waldorf salad cube
- 7 Computer debut of 1998
- 8 Hit hard
- 9 Literary collection
- 10 — Aviv
- 11 Paris summer
- 12 Warmonger
- 13 Implore
- 14 James Bond portrayer Daniel
- 15 —de-France
- 16 Chapeau
- 17 Chowled down
- 18 Actor Danson
- 19 Select, with "for"
- 20 Bat wood
- 21 IRS employee
- 22 Chest bone
- 23 Env. insert
- 24 Throat clearer
- 25 Fighting forces
- 26 Bedouins
- 27 44th president
- 28 Orange variety
- 29 Accra's country
- 30 Trudge
- 31 Passel
- 32 Biol. or chem
- 33 Indian bread
- 34 Noah's boat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	C	O	N	A	G	S	S	O	P	S
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CRYPTOQUIP

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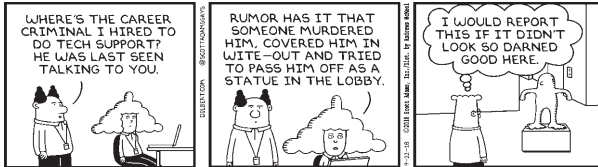
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN SCHOOLTEACHERS WOULD GRADE TESTS OF HUCK FINN'S CREATOR, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY'D MARK TWAIN.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals D

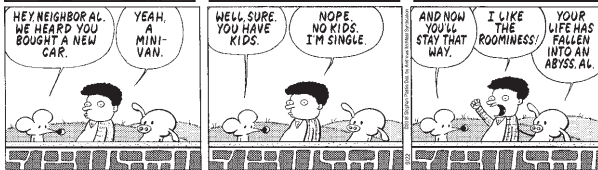
Frazz



Dilbert



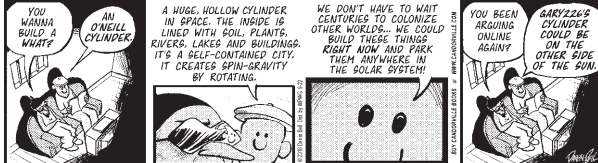
Pearls Before Swine



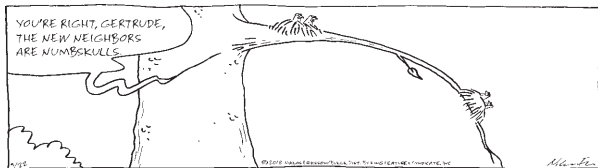
Non Sequitur



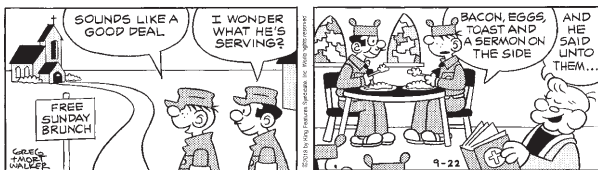
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
			21				22					
23	24	25			26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33				34					35			
			36				37					
38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

ACROSS

- Humorist
- Bryn —
- Scored 100 on
- Nabokov novel
- Jacob's twin
- He slacked-jawed
- "Toy Story" dinosaur
- 16 Pixels
- Egyptian deity
- Nuisance
- Prompt
- Binge
- 23 Ambition
- In favor of
- La-la lead-in
- "Arrivederci —"
- 31 Unruly group
- 32 Take to the pool
- 33 One of us
- 34 Levy
- 35 Trounce
- 36 Droop
- 37 "Eureka!"
- 38 Outdoor walkway on a cruise ship
- 45 Franc replacer
- 46 Sheltered
- 47 Small battery
- 48 Ship wood
- 49 Snitch
- 50 Cardinal cap letters
- 51 Perry's creator
- 52 Former mates
- 53 Golf peg

DOWN

- Get bent out of shape
- Concept
- Cab
- T-shirt size
- Unanimously
- Bulb measure
- Work that's done ASAP
- Getting on
- Sherlock's assignment
- Monumental
- Cubicle fixture
- March
- Madness gp.
- Listener
- Parched
- 24 Aussie hopper
- 25 Flightless bird
- 26 Sty one
- 27 Pair
- 28 Brink
- 29 Sound booster
- 31 Tycoon
- 32 Roe provider
- 34 — kwon do
- 35 Roulette spinners
- 36 Fire sign?
- 37 "Rumour Has It" singer
- 38 Sampras of tennis
- 39 Contrite one
- 40 Verbal
- 41 "Roots" author
- Haley
- 42 Right on the map?
- 43 Actress
- Blanchett
- 44 Hardy cabbage

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	M	T	O	R	A	I	R	A	T	E
L	E	O	P	P	M	A	N	E	T	
B	R	R	A	L	P	H	A	M	A	L
O	C	T	L	I	L	A	C			
W	I	S	P		N	E	W		C	H
				L	O	G		K	A	R
C	R	E	E	P			S	A	T	E
P	I	N	A	T	A		A	H	I	
A	B	C	D		H	A	R		G	O
				P	E	R	M	S		B
S	N	A	I	L	M	A	I	L		A
C	A	R	L	O		B	E	E		M
I	N	K	E	D		S	S	W		A

9-22

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KLTG PVZVAENGB DEVSVEEVU

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MHPL TM UXHWLYHGM TYU

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Announcements 040

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Automotive 140

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The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

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A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



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Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

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Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMott

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award

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(Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism

Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Awards – Overseas coverage
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2010 National Headline Awards

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George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charles Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

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Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

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Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
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Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award

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NBA/OLYMPICS

76ers have faith Simmons, Fultz will hit threes

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

B PHILADELPHIA en Simmons and Markelle Fultz are expected this season to join Philadelphia's Big Three.

No, not as franchise cornerstones — the No. 1 draft picks were already part of that trio with All-Star center Joel Embiid.

But as long-distance shooters, Simmons and Fultz went 0 for the season on threes; Simmons, the NBA rookie of the year, missed all 11 attempts and Fultz went 0-for-1 from three-point range.

Sixers coach Brett Brown said both players have put in the work needed on their jumpers, though neither player will ever become defined by his work beyond the arc. Brown said Fultz took about 150,000 shots this summer under the tutelage of trainer Drew Hansen. Simmons has worked with his brother, Liam, a former college basketball assistant coach, at threes and shooting from the elbow.

Simmons attempted just one three in the postseason and he'll have to establish some sort of long-range jumper to become a serious all-around threat in the NBA.

"His jump shot's not going to define him," Brown said Tuesday. "At some point, it will sure help. But I have aspirations, ambitions for him where I want him to feature on an all-defensive team. I personally want to post him more. I look forward to using him as a screener and giving Markelle the

ball and let him roll out of it, that Blake Griffin-sort of half-roll and go to dunk."

Simmons also needed work on his free throws: He made 191 of 341 for just 56 percent.

"Imagine if he can score one more point, it translates to like three to five more wins," Brown said. "When I look at how you're going to do that, that's one way that interests me, let's just get him more free throws. Can you finish, can you be a better free-throw shooter than you were in the regular season? He has to be."

Fultz, the No. 1 pick of the 2017 draft, is bordering on bust territory after just one season. His rookie year was derailed by a mysterious shoulder injury, a broken shot and confidence issues. He played the first four games, missed 68 games because of injury, and then was benched in the playoffs against the Celtics. The most baffling moment came when he refused to answer questions about his shoulder, simply staring blankly ahead and rubbing his head.

Fultz struggled with his mechanics when he did play, and his shooting form was widely mocked around the NBA. No one in the organization could pinpoint when Fultz's form went awry, though he started experiencing soreness shortly after he was drafted.

Brown said he was part of a "Team Markelle" formed this summer to help get the 20-year-old back on track.

"When I see him now come back into my gym, you look at his swagger, his cocky side, his mojo, he's seeking shots," Brown said.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Philadelphia 76ers coach Brett Brown, right, talks with guard Ben Simmons before Game 5 of the team's playoff series against the Celtics. Brown is expecting more out of Simmons and Markelle Fultz this season. The guards failed to hit a three-pointer last season. Brown says the duo will have to be better from long range this season.

By the numbers

0-11 **5** **56**

Ben Simmons' three-point shooting last year. Only once did he attempt more than one three-pointer in a game.

Number of games in which Markelle Fultz made five or more shots last year. He attempted just one three-pointer.

Ben Simmons' free-throw percentage last year. But he led the 76ers in field goal percentage with 54.5 percent.

SOURCE: cbssports.com

Pyeongchang's costly venues may eventually be razed

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
AND STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The Pyeongchang Winter Olympics closed seven months ago. Left behind are empty venues, feuding over who pays for upkeep, and an icy sky coach that's now an abandoned dirt runway, strewn with rocks and unused gondolas.

Rare trees once stood before the course was gouged out of a mountainside, and plants called for replanting the piste and restoring the forest.

Other venues sit mostly deserted: a speed-skating arena, a hockey center, a bobsled track and a ski-jump. Meanwhile, host Gangwon province has failed to persuade the national government to pay for maintenance, which would save the province \$5.3 million annually.

The eventual solution may be simple: raze the costly venues. The possibility sur-

faced as four bidders try to land the 2026 Winter Games. Beijing has already been awarded the 2022 edition.

"Honestly, I can't think of any other way," said Sangho Yoon, a senior researcher at Seoul's Korea Economic Research Institute. "Whether it's the national government or regional government, somebody will have to pay. The history of past host cities isn't promising. Very few of them experienced a meaningful tourism bump after the Olympics."

South Korea spent about \$13 billion on preparing the Olympics, including the Winter Olympics. It spent about \$110 million alone on the Pyeongchang Olympic stadium, a temporary structure demolished after the closing ceremony on Feb. 25.

Provincial officials cling to the dream of developing a ski resort to drive the economy in one of South Korea's poorest regions, reluctant to let Pyeongchang's legacy be defined by demolished venues.

The Pyeongchang Olympics were gen-

erally viewed as a success, though some venues lacked fans and atmosphere, and a doping scandal kept away many Russian athletes.

South Korea's central government has agreed to a six-month study by the Korea Development Institute before deciding on next steps. The result may simply delay the inevitable, since the institute is run by South Korea's finance ministry.

Gangwon Governor Choi Moon-soon has floated the idea of co-hosting the 2021 Asian Winter Games with North Korea, which he says would mean keeping the facilities intact. But it's unclear whether North Korea is a feasible host.

On Wednesday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un announced a sweeping set of agreements that also promised a joint bid to hold the 2032 Summer Olympics. No details were offered.

"If Gangwon insists on keeping the venues, it's much better to build plans around

the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, presenting the region as a training ground for Olympic athletes before they head into China," said Yoon, the researcher. "You know that the Olympics will be held in Beijing, but you don't know what will happen with North Korea."

The International Olympic Committee blames Korean organizers for the costly unused venues, saying it repeatedly warned about building uneeded stadiums.

The IOC, however, has encouraged previous Olympic organizers to construct expensive arenas that are abandoned when the games end.

"We've never been shy to raise concerns about the legacy of some of the venues [in Pyeongchang] that we read about right now," Christophe Dubi, executive director of the Olympics Games, told The Associated Press.

Dubi said "on the positive side" that the Pyeongchang Olympics "would generate a profit."

NHL

Officials go to camp for refresher course

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Lunch is over and before the next session of game film study begins, the jokes start flying among the 80-plus referees and linesmen assembled in a downtown hotel ballroom.

"Anyone who didn't bring their glasses should move closer to the screen so they can see," someone says.

"Or those who need glasses," someone else adds, amid the laughter.

If NHL players need training camp to prepare for the start of the season, officials are no different.

'We get to refresh the rules, and it gets us back in the flow. You start thinking hockey again.'

Tony Sericolo
NHL linesman

marks the only time all of them get an opportunity to gather before being separated to roam the continent for much of the next 10 months.

"It's like players say what they miss the most about when they played: It's the locker room. It's the same for us," veteran linesman Tony Sericolo said, referring to the playful banter. "This is our second family. We give each other shots all the time."

Camp days usually begin with a workout at 6:30 a.m. and are split up evenly with on- and off-ice sessions. There is an annual banquet honoring those who achieved career milestones and those who retired last year. They also have a poker night, with proceeds going toward the education of the children of late official Stephane

Provost, who died in a motorcycle accident in 2005.

On the ice, the officials get their skating legs under them by playing hockey in a six-team tournament.

"We get to refresh the rules, and it gets us back in the flow," Sericolo said. "You start thinking hockey again because for a couple of months, we're home, we're relaxing."

Off the ice, they spend hours studying film to review penalty standards, and share pointers on what approach might work best in various situations. With no major rule changes introduced this offseason, NHL director of officiating Stephen Walkom placed the focus on reviewing existing rules.

"We want to make sure we continue the standard we had in previous years," Walkom said. "And then there's the new tactic that crept into the game, slashing, and continue our vigilance there to allow the skill players to play."

Another point of emphasis was faceoffs, after linesmen spent much of last season cracking down on players attempting to gain an advantage by creeping in from the hash mark or dropping to their knees for leverage.

"When you watch two or three guys that really do it right, you pick up little things from each of them," Sericolo said. "It really helps your craft."

Sericolo is from Albany, N.Y., and got into officiating after playing hockey in college. He has now worked nearly 1,300 games since making his NHL debut in October 1998.

"When you're playing, you never say to yourself, 'Oh, I really can't wait to referee.' We all wanted to play," he said. "You weren't good enough to play, but you always wanted to stay involved in the game. And this was a great way to stay involved."

The most difficult part of camp might actually be playing hockey.

"It is tougher, because the hockey's not as good," Sericolo said, with a laugh. "And we don't know where we're going."



PAUL CHASSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

According to an informal poll of NHL players veteran official Wes McCauley, above, is the best referee.

His own worst critic

Top referee McCauley goes by his own book

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Wes McCauley keeps his good calls close and his bad calls closer.

Any time the veteran NHL referee is feeling too good or gets down on himself, he breaks out a binder full of his missed calls and looks through it.

"It's a humbling book," McCauley said. "Trust me, I've made a lot of mistakes. There's times you wish you could saw your arm off."

McCauley's arms have signaled countless penalties, goals and no-goals since his NHL career began in 2003. Over the past 15 years, he has developed a reputation as not only the most animated referee in the game but the best in hockey based on his consistency, rapport with players and coaches and a demeanor that's equal parts entertaining and professional.

In an NHLPA poll last spring, almost half the players chose McCauley as the league's best referee, honoring a man in stripes who's far more used to getting barked at than complimented.

"I don't think I'm that good," McCauley told The Associated Press. "My job's just to officiate hockey games and to do the best I can and to move on to the next game and really to stay out of the highlights."

McCauley earned the votes of 47.8 percent of players as the NHL's best referee, well ahead of Kelly Sutherland (17.7 percent), Tim Peel (4.4 percent) and Dan O'Halloran (2.7 percent) and

By the numbers

957

Number of regular-season NHL games Wes McCauley has officiated during his 15-year career.

131

Number of postseason games McCauley has officiated.

6

Number of Stanley Cup Final series McCauley has officiated.

SOURCE: News Gothic BT Roman, 7

Rangers forward Chris Kreider said. "In any sport when you talk about refereeing, if a ref isn't very visible and prevalent and the game is decided by the players ultimately, then that's a good ref and that's Wes."

McCauley gets that. He played four seasons at Michigan State from 1989-93, had a cup of coffee in the minors and figures his relationships with players from that era brought him the benefit of the doubt, and some of that still exists.

Best referee out there? "Now you jinxed me — now I'm going to be up and down like a toilet seat next season," McCauley quipped. Maybe earlier in his career that was a danger, though McCauley now has 957 regular-season and 131 playoff games under his and has worked six Stanley Cup Final series.

Over that time, McCauley has developed a balance between knowing players see him as an obstacle to winning while still communicating with them to the point they know him personally. Even if players aren't happy with his calls, they appreciate McCauley's honesty and ability to have just as big a mouth as they do.

"You automatically sometimes snap at the refs," Stars center Tyler Seguin said. "Sometimes you blame the refs for things that were even out of their control. And he finds a way to take it, give it back a little and then move on pretty quickly and he's always been very respectful to the players and I think that's what makes him a great ref."



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Linesman Matt MacPherson, right, prepares to drop the puck for a faceoff during a preseason game between the Columbus Blue Jackets and the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

LSU, coach adjusting to favored status

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — As much as LSU coach Ed Orgeron urges his players to “block out the noise,” the reality is inescapable.

The Tigers have indeed used their underdog status as emotional fuel in a pair of upsets of top-10 teams in the first three weeks of the season. Now that they're ranked sixth in the Top 25, they'll have to get used to playing as favorites — this week against Louisiana Tech and perhaps until current No. 2 Georgia visits Death Valley on Oct. 13.

“All the negative stuff that was going on ... if it did affect us, it affected us in a positive way,” Orgeron said Monday, referring to LSU barely being ranked in the Top 25 to start the season and listed as a pre-season underdog in a handful of games on its schedule — including against then-No. 8 Miami in its season opener and then-No. 7 Auburn this past Saturday.

“We've been playing with a chip on our shoulder.”

Several LSU players have acknowledged being motivated by college football analysts who almost unanimously predicted against them before their dramatic, 22-21 victory at Auburn on Saturday.

Going forward, Orgeron asserted, “We are going to stay humble. It's going to start with me. We are not going to mention rankings. We are not going to mention anything but focusing in on the task at hand.”

Orgeron recalled that when he was an assistant to Pete Carroll on Southern California teams that contended for national titles, high rankings or anything else that promoted a sense of favored status were “never mentioned.”

As far as Orgeron is concerned, LSU players should look no further than their own experiences from this season for lessons about what it means to be highly ranked.

“We've played two top-10 teams so far. Being a top-10 team did not help them, so that's not going to win a football game for us,” Orgeron asserted.

LSU entered the season confident in its defense, but unsure what to expect from an offense that would rely on a new quarterback, as well as largely unproven running backs and receivers. The suspension of starting offensive tackle Ed Ingram shortly before the season only cast further doubt on the unit's potential.

LSU's passing game has been by no



PHOTOS BY BUTCH DILL/AP

LSU head coach Ed Orgeron said he's avoiding talking about rankings, hoping to keep his No. 6-ranked Tigers humble.

means prolific, but quarterback Joe Burrow, a graduate transfer from Ohio State, has avoided turnovers and come through with clutch completions, such as on his fourth-and-7 completion on Saturday's winning drive. Meanwhile, running back Nick Brossette has blossomed as a senior, averaging about 110 yards per game.

“It feels good. Credit to all the guys who just kind of trust the process,” said senior tight end Foster Moreau, a member of the team's leadership council. “We understood what we were going to have to do and how we were going to have to beat teams that we weren't expected to beat. But then again, it's only three games in. We're undefeated so far, but we're far from perfect.”

Burrow moved his right hand upward and across his body while predicting the direction of LSU's offense as the season progresses.

“Going into the first couple games, I hadn't started a game in college until this year and I was kind of just feeling it out for a little bit, knowing that we have a really

good running back, really good offensive line, really good defense,” Burrow said. “I think we're about to take off as an offense now.”

“Like coach 'O' always says, ‘We don't blink,’” Burrow added. “We knew we had a really talented team going into this year, and if we played our cards right and executed the plays that we had, we were going to be really good.”

So far, defense and special teams have played leading roles in LSU's success.

Kicker Cole Tracy, a transfer from Division II Assumption college, has made seven of eight kicks, including a game-winner from 41 yards as time expired at Auburn.

The defense has created seven turnovers on two fumbles and five interceptions to go with 10 sacks.

While Orgeron wants the offense to improve, he said the defense just needs to “keep on playing the way we're playing.”

“I like the way we're attacking up front. I love our linebacker play. I think our secondary is playing lights out,” he said.



LSU has started its season by knocking off two top-10 teams.

Missouri QB Lock, a Heisman hopeful, faces a key test in No. 2 Georgia

By CHARLIE CLARKE
Associated Press



JESSICA HILL/AP

Quarterback Drew Lock has led Missouri to 40 or more points in its first three games, all wins.

COLUMBIA, Mo. — As time was expiring in Missouri's duel with Purdue, Tucker McCann drilled a winning 25-yard field goal to move the Tigers to their first 3-0 start since 2015.

He probably wouldn't have had the chance without Drew Lock.

The senior quarterback has led the Tigers to at least 40 points in each game this season, including the 40-37 shootout win over the Boilermakers on Saturday.

His completion percentage is up to 69 percent, and he has already thrown for 1,062 yards and 11 touchdowns with just one interception.

The talk of making a Heisman Trophy run is picking up steam.

But there's a new test coming Saturday, and a big one not only for Lock but also the Tigers: No. 2 Georgia is rolling into town.

As impressive as the Tigers have been this season, the Bulldogs have looked better. Georgia faced an early road test in No. 24 South Carolina and throttled the Gamecocks 41-17, and outscored opponents Austin Peay and Middle Tennessee 94-7 in their two other games.

Lock certainly seems to be taking his success in stride, though. Take the interaction he had with a Boilermakers fan after last week's game as an example.

The Purdue student had printed a sign that showed Lock with a rather disparaging comment, and it wound up in the quarterback's hands. The original owner hung around the Missouri buses until the team came out of the locker room, and then accused Lock of stealing it — and asked for a selfie. Lock not only obliged, he joked that he wanted to hang the sign on his wall.

The Bulldogs' defense probably isn't going to be as cordial. They're giving up just 158.3 passing yards per game, the second-lowest in college football, and opponents are averaging just 259 yards total.

“It's definitely the best defense

we've played so far,” Lock said. “They're extremely athletic in the secondary. They're not going to let you chuck it deep on them.”

Georgia coach Kirby Smart is fully aware of the damage Lock can do.

“I don't know if his arm can get any stronger,” Smart said. “He can make every throw. He's got as fast of a release as I've ever seen.”

Lock won't have to do it alone, of course. Wide receiver Emanuel Hall had 141 yards and two touchdowns against the Bulldogs last season, and the emergence of freshman Tyler Badie gives the Tigers three talented running backs and offensive balance.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Top 25 schedule

Friday
No. 10 Penn State at Illinois
No. 16 UCF vs. FAU
Saturday
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 22 Texas A&M
No. 2 Georgia at Missouri
No. 3 Clemson at Georgia Tech
No. 4 Ohio State vs. Tulane
No. 5 Oklahoma vs. Army
No. 6 LSU vs. Louisiana Tech
No. 7 Stanford at No. 20 Oregon
No. 8 Notre Dame at Wake Forest
No. 9 Auburn vs. Arkansas
No. 10 Washington vs. Arizona State
No. 12 West Virginia vs. Kansas State
No. 13 Virginia Tech at Old Dominion
No. 14 Mississippi State at Kentucky
No. 15 Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech
No. 17 TCU at Texas
No. 18 Wisconsin at Iowa
No. 19 Michigan vs. Nebraska
No. 21 Miami vs. FIU
No. 23 Boston College at Purdue
No. 24 Michigan State at Indiana
No. 25 BYU vs. McNeese State

Service academies



at Utah State

Last week: Did not play



at No. 5 Oklahoma

Last week: Beat Hawaii
28-21



at SMU

Last week: Beat Lehigh
51-21

Power Five standings

	ACC	Big Ten	SEC	Pac-12	Big 12	Coastal	Atlantic
ACC							
Boston College	Conf.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Syracuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clemson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louisville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal							
Virginia Tech	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miami	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia Tech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Big 12							
Oklahoma	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas Tech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Big Ten							
East							
Ohio State	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West							
Northwestern	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purdue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pac-12							
North							
Stanford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South							
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UCLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UCLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEC							
East							
Georgia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West							
Alabama	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas A&M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



TONY AVELAR/AP

Stanford running back Bryce Love, right, stiff-arms Southern California cornerback Iman Marshall during their game on Sept. 8. Stanford will get star running back Bryce Love back for Saturday's Pac-12 North showdown against No. 20 Oregon.

Key Power Five matchups

No. 22 Texas A&M at No. 1 Alabama

9:30 p.m. Saturday, CET;

4:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT

AFN-Sports

Series record: Alabama leads 8-2.

What's at stake?: Alabama wants to avoid an early stumble, having outscored its first three opponents by a combined 170-28. The Aggies nearly pulled off an upset of No. 3 Clemson and hope to make a statement in coach Jimbo Fisher's first SEC game.

Key matchup: Texas A&M's running game against Alabama's defense. Led by Trayvon Williams, the Aggies rank second in the SEC in rushing yards per game while Alabama is giving up 101 yards on the ground.

Players to watch: Texas A&M: QB Kellen Mond might need his second straight huge performance against a playoff contender for the Aggies to win. He passed for a career-high 430 yards and three touchdowns in the Clemson game. Alabama: QB Tua Tagovailoa is the SEC's most efficient passer with eight touchdowns and no interceptions. He has yet to play even close to a full game thanks to the lopsided scores and sharing time with former starter Jalen Hurts.

Facts & figures: Fisher was an assistant under Tide coach Nick Saban from 2000-2004 at LSU. Saban is 12-0 against his former staffers and beat Fisher's Florida State team 24-7 in last season's opener. ... Texas A&M's Williams has a league-leading 399 yards with four touchdowns. The Tide haven't given up a rushing touchdown this season. ... Alabama has won the last five meetings. ... Alabama is scoring 56.7 points per game to lead all Football Bowl Subdivision teams. ... Alabama also has scored a whopping 16 touchdowns on interception returns over its last 47 games. ... Texas A&M's offense has opened the season with three straight games producing 500-plus yards for the first time since 2009.

Arizona State at No. 10 Washington

4:30 a.m. Sunday, CET;

11:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT

AFN-Sports

Series record: Arizona State leads 20-15.

What's at stake: Washington returns home after passing its first test of conference play with an impressive win at Utah led by its defense. The Huskies limited Utah to 261 yards of offense and held the Utes scoreless after the first quarter. And there's a bit of revenge at stake for the Huskies after last year's lackluster loss in the desert. Arizona State is looking to rebound after its 28-21 loss to San Diego State, including a controversial conclusion that cost the Sun Devils a chance to tie in the closing seconds.

Key matchup: Washington's offensive line vs. Arizona State's pressure. Washington's protection of QB Jake Browning continues to be shaky and its run game finally got started against Utah thanks to the individual effort of RB Myles Gaskin. The Sun Devils bring an exotic series of fronts and blitzes that force the offensive line to be on the same page, and can cause chaos.

Players to watch: Arizona State: WR N'Keal Harry. Arizona State's star has a touchdown catch in each of his past five games and has a reception in 28 consecutive games. Harry will face a major challenge with Washington's standout secondary. Harry had nine catches against Washington last season.

Washington: CBs Jordan Miller and Byron Murphy. Miller and Murphy are the leaders of Washington's stellar secondary and each are coming off fantastic games. Miller had his first interception of the season and Murphy was the physical enforcer against the Utes. Miller suffered a season-ending leg injury against Arizona State last year.

Facts & figures: Washington has dropped 11 of past 12 meetings against Sun Devils. Only win during span was 44-18 win in Seattle in 2016. ... Arizona State is 16-22-2 all-time in Pac-10/12 openers. ASU has never won Pac-10/12 openers in three straight seasons since joining the conference in 1978. ... Arizona State running backs have not lost a fumble in 22 straight games, a span of 593 consecutive carries.

No. 7 Stanford at No. 20 Oregon

9:30 p.m. Saturday, CET;

4:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT

AFN-Sports2

Series record: Stanford leads, 48-32-1.

What's at stake?: This is a divisional game that could have implications for not only the Pac-12 North, but also the league championship. Five times since 2011 the winner of the game between Stanford and Oregon has gone on to win the division. It will be the first real challenge of the season for Oregon, which has wins over Bowling Green, Portland State and San Jose State. Stanford RB Bryce Love and Oregon QB Justin Herbert figure to be the headliners.

Key matchup: Stanford's running game against Oregon's run defense. Love ran for a pair of touchdowns within the first five minutes of the last meeting between the two teams, and finished with 147 yards. Oregon has allowed an average of 77 yards rushing per game, 13th in the nation. The Ducks have allowed just 1.96 yards per carry.

Players to watch: Stanford: Love. The Heisman finalist sat out of Stanford's victory last weekend over UC Davis with an unspecified injury. The week before he ran for 136 yards and a touchdown in the team's 17-3 victory at home over USC. In the past two meetings against the Ducks, he has 220 yards and averaged 10.4 per carry.

Oregon: Herbert. The junior has been mentioned as a preseason Heisman candidate and has thrown at least three TDs in each of the Ducks' three games. Oregon is averaging 42.9 points when Herbert plays.

Facts & figures: Oregon has had a four-game homestand to open the season. ... The Ducks have won 10 of their last 13 at home against opponents ranked in the top 10. ... The last time the two teams met Stanford won 49-7 in Palo Alto. ... Twelve different Ducks have scored an offensive TD this season, best in the nation. ... Stanford has allowed just 23 points and two TDs in its first three games. ... Both teams are among 35 at the FBS level without a loss. ... JJ Arcega-White has five TD receptions for the Cardinal through three games, ranking him third in the nation. It's also the most for a Stanford receiver in 20 years.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Holyfield's dad offers advice after game

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Elijah Holyfield's famous father offered some advice after the Georgia junior was stopped short of the goal line on a 66-yard run last week.

"He said I should have scored," Holyfield said of tips from his father, former boxing champion Evander Holyfield, after Georgia's 49-7 win over Middle Tennessee last week. "He said I probably should have just kept running. He said trust your speed."

Holyfield ran for 100 yards as No. 2 Georgia (3-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) gained momentum for Saturday night's game at Missouri.

Holyfield (5-11, 215) resembles his father in his looks and athletic strengths. He's a physical runner and is tough to bring down, much like his father in the ring.

"He likes contact, and he's a bowling ball," said Georgia coach Kirby Smart on Monday. "He's hard to bring down. He's really tough."

Last week's surprise was Holyfield's explosive speed, including on the long run.

The skills made Holyfield Georgia's first 100-yard rusher this season. He is the surprise leading rusher in a tailback committee, still topped by D'Andre Swift, who did not play after the Bulldogs' first two possessions last week.

Swift is still listed as the starter



MIKE STEWART/AP

Georgia running back Elijah Holyfield (13) runs by Austin Peay defensive back Kordell Jackson on Sept. 11. Holyfield leads the Bulldogs with 200 yards rushing.

on Georgia's depth chart. Holyfield, who leads Georgia with 200 yards rushing, is bracketed with Brian Herrien as Swift's top backups.

Smart protected Swift last week so he could give other backs more snaps and said Swift is healthy.

"We expect to be 100 percent at the running back position like we were Saturday," Smart said.

Holyfield was rewarded for his patience after playing behind Nick Chubb and Sony Michel the last two years.

"Coming in, everybody says 'I want to come in and start' but the likelihood of coming in and starting over Nick and Sony is kind of slim," Holyfield said. "So I kind of knew I'd have to wait my time and I'm glad it's here now."

Holyfield took notes from Chubb and Michel while waiting for his chance.

"I just learned from the way they worked and how they always move on to the next game," Holyfield said. "Even after they have a great game, they're always back

in the film room the next day trying to get better. They taught me a lot of skills like that and then certain things to look for when I'm running against a certain defense."

Smart said after Saturday's game Holyfield has "a heart of gold" which he shows with his consistent work ethic in practice.

"Every day for him is physical," Smart said Monday. "There is not a day he goes out there and says 'I'm taking this day off or I'm not going full speed today.' He's not a



No. 3 Georgia (3-0, 1-0 SEC)
at Missouri (3-0, 0-0 SEC)
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

guy you have to motivate. He loves the game. He practices hard. I think he really likes competition because when he gets thudded by a guy, he always likes to come back and get that guy back."

Georgia safety J.R. Reed said Holyfield is "probably one of the most physical backs we've seen."

"He's learned from Nick and Sony on how to practice and he works very hard in practice," Reed said. "... I definitely think he's one of the hardest backs in the SEC to bring down."

Holyfield's voice rose when he spoke Monday about being tackled at the Middle Tennessee 7 at the end of his 66-yard run.

"I was mad," he said. "I was very mad I didn't get it in. It's OK. I'll get more opportunities."

He said his dad, who attended last week's game, gave him more than just advice on the run.

"He did say I was proud of me," he said. "He was proud of my performance."

No. 17 TCU focuses on conference play after loss

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Within minutes after TCU's loss to Ohio State, coach Gary Patterson was asked what he would want people to say about that game should the 17th-ranked Horned Frogs go on to win the Big 12 title and be in consideration for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

"They said that they shouldn't hold it against Washington because they played a really good football team," Patterson said, referring to the No. 10 Huskies' season-opening loss to Auburn in another off-campus game and adding that TCU should get similar credit.

"We've got a lot of good people we've got to play before we get to that point," Patterson said. "So right now, I won't worry about that. If we can get to the first of December, we can have that conversation. But right now, it's Texas."

The Frogs (2-1) play Saturday at Texas, a team they have outscored 153-33 in their past four meetings, their only four-game winning streak in the series since 1935-38 — that was during the era of Sammy Baugh and Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien, and when TCU won its only AP national title.

Patterson says if he could only win one of those games — Ohio State or Texas — he would want it to be the Longhorns. Sure, there is that instate rivalry, and the rare streak on the line. More importantly, it is the Big 12 opener.

"If you don't win conference, don't win games in the conference schedule, it

doesn't make any difference," Patterson said Tuesday.

TCU lost 40-28 on Saturday against Ohio State, which trailed 21-13 before scoring three touchdowns in a four-minute span early in the second half to go ahead to stay.

The Buckeyes' first touchdown came on a strip sack of Shawn Robinson in the first quarter. While that play wasn't challenged or questioned then, replays shows that an Ohio State defender appeared to touch the ball while his feet were out of the end zone before the fumble was recovered for a touchdown. That could have made it a safety instead. Even after that, the Frogs recovered to go ahead before the quick scoring spurt by Ohio State after halftime.

Washington (2-1) is still a Top 10 team, having rebounded from that 21-16 loss to Auburn with wins over North Dakota and its Pac-12 opener against Utah. And the Tigers (2-1) also remain in the Top 10 after a home loss to LSU on a game-ending field goal last weekend.

TCU is playing away from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex for the first time this season. The Frogs won their season opener 55-7 at home over FCS team Southern University, before a rainy 30-point win at SMU and the loss against the Buckeyes in the home stadium of the Dallas Cowboys about 20 miles from the TCU campus — and where the Big 12 championship is played.

"There's a big jump between the first two and the other one (Ohio State), so I think reality's somewhere in between," Patterson said. "We've got to go on the road to a very good Texas team's place, Austin's always tough to play in."



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

TCU running back Sewo Olonilua (33) scores a touchdown as Ohio State's Damon Arnette Jr. attempts to take him down during the first half Saturday.

NFL



DON WRIGHT/AP

The Steelers began the season saying they needed to avoid the drama that plagued them in 2017. And yet two weeks in the team is winless and wide receiver Antonio Brown, above, is frustrated.

Pittsburgh enduring another rough patch

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Bud Dupree just smiled earlier this month when asked what would happen if the “Hard Knocks” cameras decided to spend a month embedded with the team during training camp.

“We’re too real for TV,” Dupree said with a grin.

Dupree meant it as a joke. Two weeks later, nobody is laughing. The Steelers (0-1-1) are winless heading into Monday’s visit to Tampa Bay and the distractions they stressed the importance of avoiding in 2018 only seem to be multiplying.

The latest arrived in the aftermath of a loss to Kansas City when All-Pro wide receiver Antonio Brown opted to skip work on Monday, though he did find the time to hop on Twitter and respond to criticism by a former team employee who believes Brown should be thankful that he plays alongside quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

No one took Brown’s suggestion of “trade me let’s find out” seriously. Coach Mike Tomlin’s bigger concern was Brown’s absence from a mandatory day of meetings, a misstep that led to an extended sit-down between the two on Tuesday.

“I’ll leave the nature of that conversation between us,” Tomlin said Wednesday. “There was discipline involved for his missed meeting for Monday. Some of the other things we talked about extensively, he’ll speak for himself in some of those things. Really our focus is preparing to win this game on Monday night.”

Tomlin did not outline Brown’s punishment. The only player in NFL history with five consecutive seasons of at least 100 receptions practiced alongside his teammates on Wednesday and there appears to be no plans to have him sit when the Steelers play the Buccaneers (2-0).

Asked if he expects Brown to face Tampa Bay, center Maurice Pouncey responded “100 percent” and insisted there would be no blowback against Brown in the locker room for another in an increasing line of highly visible missteps.

“People don’t know the things he has going on in his life, he’s totally fine,” Pouncey said. “He talked to the people he needed to talk to and confirmed why he wasn’t here and we move on as a team and that’s totally fine.”

Pouncey’s remarks came two weeks after he and the rest of the offensive line vented about running back Le’Veon Bell’s decision to stay away from the team rather than sign his one-year franchise tender and two months after Pouncey opened training camp by saying “I know it’s all fun and games for everybody at the beginning but man it’s time to win.”

And yet here the Steelers are, tied with Cleveland for last place in the AFC North while Bell jet skis in Florida and Brown flouts team rules. Roethlisberger did his best to downplay any sense of the off-the-field issues swallowing the team whole.

“I mean any team, any sport is going to have some kind of distractions throughout the year,” Roethlisberger said. “I think that’s what makes you professional. How can you respond and recover from it?”

No position for patience: Vikings upgrade 3 spots

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings have almost every key player back from the 2017 team that won 14 games and went to the NFC championship game.

Their new quarterback, Kirk Cousins, is playing up to his big contract. They’re one kick away from starting this season unbeaten.

For all their strengths and stability, let alone dwindling space under the salary cap, the Vikings still sought upgrades at three positions in the three days that passed since their 29-29 tie at Green Bay.

They signed kicker Dan Bailey after cutting their fifth-round draft pick, Daniel Carlson, following his three missed field goals against the Packers.

They dropped wide receiver Stacy Coley, a seventh-round pick in 2017, in favor of Aldrick Robinson, who is a more experienced backup. When defensive tackle Tom Johnson became available, they brought him back to spell Sheldon Richardson and let David Parry go.

“I wanted to go somewhere that had an opportunity to win and be a part of an organization that’s right there and right on the brink of having a lot of success,” said Bailey, who like Johnson had offers from multiple teams. “When this situation came up, it fit the bill perfectly.”

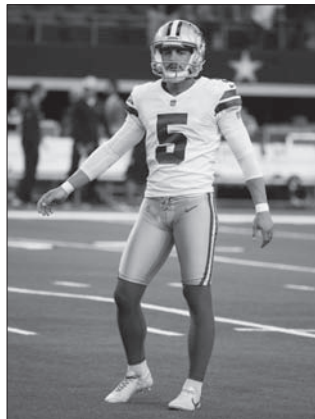
Such cutthroat competition is commonplace in the NFL, of course, but nonetheless indicative of the all-in approach the front office has applied in 2018 in pursuit of a Super Bowl.

There’s little appetite this fall for leaving one of those 53 precious spots on the roster for a developmental purpose, if it can be used instead for a player who’ll contribute to the current team.

When the opening week rosters were established, the Vikings had the youngest average age in the NFC. But they replaced Carlson (23) with Bailey (30), Parry (26) with Johnson (34) and Coley (24) with Robinson, who will turn 30 on Monday.

Coach Mike Zimmer even texted general manager Rick Spielman and some of the other evaluators this week with this message: “Thank you for trying to get some more players in here.”

Zimmer added: “It’s great to see. We felt like we



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

Kicker Dan Bailey signed with the Vikings after being cut by the Dallas Cowboys on Sept. 1

needed to make some moves after that game.”

Carlson was going to have a hard time recovering from his performance in Green Bay. Coley made a couple of less-obvious mistakes, but coupled with some costly dropped passes by fellow wide receiver Laqon Treadwell in that game, the Vikings were understandably concerned about their depth behind stars Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen.

Then Johnson suddenly became available after his release by Seattle, and the Vikings seized on the opportunity to add a player who was good enough to start for the league’s top-ranked defense last season in a reserve role.



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

The Minnesota Vikings cut kicker Daniel Carlson this week after he missed this potential game-winning field goal during the waning seconds of overtime against the Packers on Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.

NFL



Don Wright/AP

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes leads the league in touchdowns with 15.



DAVID BANKS/AP

Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky has two TD passes and two interceptions.

No comparison; nor should there be

Bears coach points out there are more differences than similarities in Trubisky, Mahomes

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy understands the temptation to compare, given the way his present and past quarterbacks are performing.

Mitchell Trubisky and Patrick Mahomes were top 10 selections in the same class and the first two QBs drafted in 2017. But while Trubisky — the No. 2 overall pick that year — has turned in two shaky performances for Chicago this season, Mahomes has been lighting it up for Kansas City.

"Well, what's fair to compare is you have one, in Patrick, who has had a full year in this offense to understand it," Nagy said.

"Now, regardless of playing in it, he's had a full year, more than a year to sit behind it and learn and understand and watch tape with those quarterbacks last year and get to see all the talk, all the discussions of where you go on this play and that play, whereas Mitchell hasn't had that. He's being forced into this thing right away, and

so that's where these growing pains are going to occur."

Nagy spoke Tuesday, a day after the Bears beat the Seattle Seahawks to give their coach his first career victory.

Trubisky threw touchdown passes on Chicago's first possession and early in the fourth quarter, but got intercepted two times by Shaquill Griffin.

The offense stalled for large portions of the game, and a defense led by Khalil Mack carried Chicago, sacking Russell Wilson six times.

That allowed the Bears to leave Soldier Field with a good feeling after they blew a 20-point lead in a season-opening loss to Aaron Rodgers and the Packers.

"I'm trying to get over just dwelling on plays too much," Trubisky said. "I think it's hurt me more than it's helped me."

"So getting over plays and just building on what I did good and forgetting about what I did bad and continuing to improve and get better and learn this offense and Coach keeps saying, it is going to be a process. We want immediate results, but finding ways to

win is very important and we did that."

But it sure would help if Trubisky started emerging as the franchise quarterback the Bears envisioned him becoming when they traded up a spot with San Francisco to draft him.

The organization figured it would take time and was planning to have him mostly watch from the sideline last season with Mike Glennon starting.

Of course, it didn't work out that way. Glennon struggled through four games before Trubisky replaced him as the starter.

The Bears then spent much of the offseason building around him by hiring an offensive-minded head coach and giving him some new options — most notably signing former Pro Bowl receiver Allen Robinson away from Jacksonville. But through two games, Trubisky has plenty of room to improve.

Trubisky has an 80.0 rating, with a pair of touchdown passes and as many interceptions. Compare that to Mahomes with a 143.3 rating and a league-leading 10 touchdowns with no interceptions.

Or maybe don't compare.

The fact that Mahomes has a year in the Chiefs' system and isn't learning a new offense again isn't the only difference. He also got what basically amounted to his redshirt year, sitting behind Alex Smith last season.

"It's easy to compare two people because they were drafted in the same draft, top 10, one ahead of the other," Nagy said. "So those comparisons are easy. But what's the real behind that is what I just said. You have one guy that has had plenty of time now to learn it."

In the opener against the Packers, Trubisky at times was quick to scramble and abandon plays rather than stay in the pocket. He also couldn't lead the Bears past midfield in the closing minutes when they needed to get into field-goal range.

Trubisky thought he did a better job staying in the pocket on Monday night.

"O-line did a fantastic job all night giving me time when I needed it and just finding those receivers, but they got a good scheme on their side," he said.

Check: Some already questioning coaches' hirings after listless starts

FROM BACK PAGE

The other three new coaches are in the same boat as Gruden, searching for that elusive first win and facing questions about whether they were the right choice for the job.

The New York Giants have looked listless on offense in their first two games under former Minnesota offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, scoring only one TD in the opener and not making it into the end zone until 1:27 remained in a 20-13 loss to Dallas this past week.

It's the defense that's been the problem in Detroit under former New England defensive coordinator Matt Patricia. The Lions have allowed 78 points in losses to the Jets and San Francisco, the third most in franchise history after

two games.

"I certainly understand their frustration and we're doing everything we can possible to make sure we get this turned around," Patricia said of Detroit fans who have celebrated just one playoff win in the past 60 years.

"I expect to win every single week and go out and we work extremely hard to make sure we get that done, and we have to keep pushing forward."

The Cardinals have been perhaps the worst team of all under Steve Wilks, getting outscored 58-6 the first two weeks against Washington and the Rams and failing even to cross midfield until the next-to-last play of the game in Sunday's 34-0 drubbing by Los Angeles.

There are already questions

about coordinator Mike McCoy's status in Arizona and about when rookie quarterback Josh Rosen should take over from Sam Bradford.

"We all need to look in the mirror and check ourselves and figure out, 'What can I do to help this team win games?'" Wilks said.

"I don't think your actual long-term vision changes and your expectations, but you have to be able to adapt in this league. We're looking to make changes. We're looking to make this thing better and make it right."

"So, to say that we're satisfied, [to say that] I'm satisfied to where we are right now not scoring a touchdown in two games and having a lack of production on the offensive side of the ball, no. We've got to make some changes."

One of the problems for these new coaches is the reason they were hired in the first place was that something was wrong with their franchises. The Titans are the only one of the seven teams to make the playoffs in 2017 and the Lions are the only other that had a winning record.

The Cardinals are in a major transition after the retirement of coach Bruce Arians and quarterback Carson Palmer, while the Raiders, Giants and Colts combined for just 13 wins a year ago.

With those recent struggles and coaches who are bringing in new assistants and systems, there is also the usual roster turnover that comes with a new regime.

Implementing that is even harder now than it was in the past because of limited practice time

in the offseason and a league-wide move to cut back on playing time for regulars in the exhibition season.

"Everybody's learning, every week we're going to learn and get better and make improvements. That's what we have to do," Giants quarterback Eli Manning said.

"When you have a new offense, new players, new guys coming in, there is a learning curve to it so we've just got to keep grinding and keep preparing and don't get down. Have the desire to get better."

"If we all want that, we all have that, and we've got to make the improvements that the coaches are giving us, and that will give us a better opportunity to win the game."



GAMEDAY

WEEK 3

TELEVIEWED GAMES



Marquee matchup

Los Angeles Chargers (1-1) at Los Angeles Rams (2-0)

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT

Green Bay Packers (1-0-1)
at **Washington Redskins (1-1)**

AFN-Sports2
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Packers lead 18-14-1.

Last meeting: Redskins beat Packers 42-24, Nov. 20, 2016.

Notes: Redskins have won two of last three meetings between teams. ... Packers QB Aaron Rodgers has 831 passing yards and seven TDs in his past two games against Redskins. ... Redskins RB Adrian Peterson has 1,779 rushing yards and 13 rushing TDs in 17 career games against Packers.



San Francisco 49ers (1-1)
at **Kansas City Chiefs (2-0)**

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: 49ers lead 7-5.

Last meeting: 49ers beat Chiefs 22-17, Oct. 5, 2014.

Notes: Chiefs have won two of past three meetings between teams. ... Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes passed for 326 yards and six TDs last week in win over Steelers. ... 49ers RB Matt Breida leads NFL with 184 rushing yards. ... Chiefs WR Tyreek Hill had 90 receiving yards and TD against Steelers.

SERIES RECORD: Rams lead 6-5.

LAST MEETING: Chargers beat Rams 27-24, Nov. 23, 2014.

CHARGERS OFFENSE: OVERALL (3), RUSH (11),

PASS (3).

CHARGERS DEFENSE: OVERALL (9), RUSH (14),

PASS (13).

RAMS OFFENSE: OVERALL (7), RUSH (13), PASS (10).

RAMS DEFENSE: OVERALL (3), RUSH (5), PASS (6).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: First meeting between two Los Angeles NFL teams since Nov. 13, 1994, when Raiders defeated Rams 20-17. ... Chargers have won two of past three against Rams. ... Since Week 11 of last season, Chargers lead league in offense, averaging 436.9 yards per game. ... Chargers QB Philip Rivers has thrown three or more TD passes and has passer rating over 100 in three straight regular-season games. Rivers averaged 246.7 yards in three previous meetings vs. Rams. ... RB Melvin Gordon has scored three touchdowns and averaged 111.3 scrimmage yards in past three vs. NFC. ... WR Mike Williams became 37th player to catch TD pass from Rivers last week. ... S Derwin James first rookie defensive back with sack

in first two games since 1999. ... Rams are 2-0 for first time since 1991, when they started 6-0 en route to third Super Bowl appearance in franchise history. ... Rams QB Jared Goff unbeaten in five starts vs. AFC teams with 11 touchdowns and no interceptions. Goff has 15 touchdowns and four interceptions in past seven starts overall dating to last season. ... RB Todd Gurley had 100-plus scrimmage yards in each of past four games vs. AFC. ... WR Brandin Cooks averaging 16.1 yards per catch since 2016, fourth best in NFL. ... DT Aaron Donald leads league with 39 sacks since entering NFL in 2014. ... CB Marcus Peters has three straight games in interception vs. Chargers, all with Kansas City.

— Associated Press



Cincinnati Bengals (2-0)
at **Carolina Panthers (1-1)**

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Series tied 2-2-1.

Last meeting: Panthers tied Bengals 37-37, Oct. 12, 2014.

Notes: Bengals have won two of past three meetings between the teams. ... Bengals QB Andy Dalton threw four TD passes last week against Ravens. ... Panthers QB Cam Newton threw three TD passes last week in loss to Falcons. ... Bengals RB Giovani Bernard had career-high 137 rushing yards in last meeting between teams.



Dallas Cowboys (1-1)
at **Seattle Seahawks (0-2)**

AFN-Sports2
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Cowboys lead 10-7.

Last meeting: Seahawks beat Cowboys 21-12, Dec. 24, 2017.

Notes: Seahawks have won past two meetings between teams. ... Cowboys RB Ezekiel Elliott had 118 scrimmage yards in last meeting. ... Seahawks QB Russell Wilson has 2,669 passing yards and 24 TDs and in past 10 home games. ... Seahawks WR Doug Baldwin had TD catch in last meeting.



Rams quarterback Jared Goff

MARC JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

Also on AFN:

Chicago Bears (1-1) at **Arizona Cardinals (0-2)**, AFN-Atlantic, 10:25 p.m. Sunday CET, 5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

New England Patriots (1-1) at **Detroit Lions (0-2)**, AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m. Monday CET, 9:15 a.m. Monday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East				North				South				West			
					Pf	Pa	Home	Away	Pf	Pa	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	AFC	NFC	Pf	Pa	Home	Away
Miami	2	0	0	1.000	47	32	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
New England	1	1	0	.500	47	51	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	60	37	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Buffalo	0	2	0	.000	23	78	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Jacksonville	2	0	0	1.000	51	35	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	40	44	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	44	43	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Houston	0	2	0	.000	37	47	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Cincinnati	2	0	0	1.000	68	46	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	70	37	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Cleveland	0	1	1	.250	39	42	0-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1
Pittsburgh	0	1	1	.250	58	63	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-1
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	80	65	0-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	47	43	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0	.500	59	58	0-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Oakland	0	2	0	.000	32	53	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East				North				South				West			
					Pf	Pa	Home	Away	Pf	Pa	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	AFC	NFC	Pf	Pa	Home	Away
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	28	29	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Washington	1	1	0	.500	33	27	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	39	39	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	75	61	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	43	42	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Carolina	1	1	0	.500	40	39	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	61	66	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Green Bay	1	0	1	.750	53	52	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0
Minnesota	1	0	1	.750	53	45	1-0-0	0-0-1	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0	1-0-1	0-0-0
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	47	41	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	44	78	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
L.A. Rams	2	0	0	1.000	67	13	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	46	51	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	41	51	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Arizona	0	2	0	.000	6	58	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

New Orleans at Atlanta
Buffalo at Minnesota
Denver at Baltimore
Indianapolis at Philadelphia
Oakland at Miami
N.Y. Giants at Houston
Tennessee at Jacksonville
Monday's game
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Sept. 27
Minnesota at L.A. Rams
Sunday, Sept. 30
Cincinnati at Atlanta
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Houston at Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville
Miami at New England
Detroit at Dallas
Buffalo at Green Bay
Philadelphia at Tennessee
Open: Washington, Carolina
Cleveland at Oakland
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants
San Francisco at L.A. Chargers
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Open: Washington, Carolina
Monday, Oct. 1
Kansas City at Denver

SPORTS



Playing the favorite
Tigers switch from underdog role
in opening games » **Page 58**

NFL

Reality check



Oakland Raiders fans rejoiced when the team brought coach Jon Gruden back for a second stint with the team. After trading star player Khalil Mack, and then opening the season 0-2, fans are already questioning how long it will take Gruden to turn things around.

JOHN HEFTI/AP

New coaches off to underwhelming starts

By **JOSH DUBOW**
Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif.

Jon Gruden was welcomed back to Oakland as a returning hero when he got hired for his second stint as coach of the Raiders.

There was a party he hosted for fans at a local sports bar, loud ovations in the preseason and a heightened level of excitement that Gruden could get the Raiders back to being the consistent winner they were during his first stint that started two decades ago.

The reality has been far different after two weeks. Fans are frustrated by the trade of the team's best player, Khalil Mack, the crowd booed at the end of a lopsided, season-opening loss, and an 0-2 start has raised questions about how long it will take to turn the Raiders into a winner.

"We're going to keep building our football team. Whether that translates into one win or four wins or any wins, I'm not going to make any predictions,"

Gruden said.

"I want to continue to play good, hardnose football. Keep improving. Keep improving and good things will happen. I'm not going to sit here and make any predictions about anything other than we're going to play hard and provide the best effort we can."

Gruden's not alone when it comes to getting off to slow starts in a new tenure as coach. All seven new coaches lost on the opening weekend for the worst debut performance in NFL history for a new class of coaches.

There was some improvement in Week 2 as Indianapolis' Frank Reich, Chicago's Matt Nagy and Tennessee's Mike Vrabel all got into the win column for the first time in their head coaching careers.

"It always helps to win," Vrabel said. "When you're trying to explain things to a team, or trying to get a message across, there has to be some tangible evidence to say, 'Hey, when we do these things we give ourselves a chance to win.'"

SEE CHECK ON PAGE 62



MARK TENALL/AP

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, left, speaks with head coach Frank Reich last week against the Redskins. After a loss in his first week as coach, Reich and the Colts beat Washington 21-9.

76ers confident Simmons, Fultz can go deep » **Page 56**

